

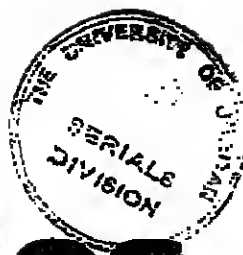
India expels two Pakistanis in row

NEW DELHI (AFP) — India on Tuesday expelled a Pakistani diplomat and a Pakistani high commission (embassy) official for alleged spying, an official spokesman here said, in a move escalating a new tit-for-tat dispute between the South Asian rivals.

Indian Foreign Secretary K. Srinivasan conveyed New Delhi's decision to expel Nasiruddin Ahmad, a first secretary, and Mohammad Afzal Bajwa, a mission official, to Pakistani High Commissioner Riaz Hussain Khokhar. Indian intelligence officials alleged Monday they had seized a bundle of secret documents from Mr. Bajwa after he had paid 3,000 rupees (\$100 dollars) to his Indian contact, who managed to escape. Earlier Tuesday, Pakistan said it had arrested an Indian embassy attaché, V.S. Chohan, in an identical operation on the same day. Mr. Chohan, employed in the embassy's visa section since August 1990, was caught "red-handed" while receiving secret papers from a Pakistani agent, security officials alleged in Islamabad, adding that his suspected Pakistani accomplice had also been arrested.

Jordan Times

An independent political daily published in Jordan
بالإندونيسية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية والرأي



Multilateral talks open in Tunisia

TABARQA (AP) — Arab, Israeli and other senior diplomats gathered here Tuesday for two days of talks on ways of encouraging regional cooperation throughout the Middle East. The sixth round meeting of the steering committee of the Middle East multilateral talks will assess the progress of two years of discussions on issues related to the main political dispute between Israel and the Arabs. The multilateral meetings were set up at Israeli insistence as part of the regional peace talks launched in 1991 in Madrid to add depth to the political negotiations. The five multilateral tracks deal with arms control, scarce water, refugees, economic cooperation and environmental degradation. Tunisian Deputy Foreign Minister Saad Ben Mustafa said that despite Israel's direct autonomy agreement with the Palestine Liberation Organisation the talks were still needed to "promote and facilitate" a solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict. "The strengthening of the regional cooperation will lay the foundation of a structure of peace in the region," Mr. Ben Mustafa told the meeting in this Mediterranean coastal resort.

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King's offer to meet with Rabin is only intended to advance peace process

Anani says no conditions attached to meeting except that it be rich in content and context.

By Nermeen Murad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein's announcement earlier this week that he would meet with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin was not an apologetic proposal, with strings attached to it. Rather, it was a public offer meant to push the peace process forward and ensure that a successful outcome would bring stability and benefits to the whole region, especially to Jordan.

"The King said he wanted a meeting that is rich in content and context and gives peace a big push," Information Minister Jawad Al Anani told the Jordan Times Tuesday, adding that the King "did not place conditions on the meeting."

What His Majesty did in effect, Dr. Anani said, "was to inform the Jordanian people that the meeting with Rabin will take place... what was left pending was the timing."

Having established and announced the principle of holding a meeting, the timing of the meeting has been left open to ensure that it does not just turn into a "euphoric press occasion or an exercise in symbols," Dr. Anani pointed out.

In fact officials interviewed by the Jordan Times Tuesday agreed that the King's only apparent condition to meeting with Mr. Rabin was that "there would be a reason for it."

"I will not hesitate (to meet Rabin) and I would consider that a duty because I would be doing a service to my country which is facing threats from all directions," the King had told cabinet ministers and deputies Saturday.

Although most analysts had interpreted the King's speech to mean that the Kingdom was under pressure to meet with Mr. Rabin and that he was not going to enter

the meeting "for free," Dr. Anani said that the King's reference to the economic and political pressures on the Kingdom was to explain to the people that Jordan would benefit from a peaceful situation in the region.

"We do see advantages to peace," Dr. Anani said, "and we want an honourable peace that brings advantages."

The King, in his speeches since the proposal to enter into peace negotiations with Israel, Dr. Anani pointed out, "has stressed the advantages and benefits that the future would hold for us and for the region."

In his address to the Parliament-government group, His Majesty said that Jordan entered the peace process with Israel out of a conviction in its viability and as a duty, and that he would meet with the Israeli prime minister if that is what is required to serve the interests of the country.

The King also spoke about the formidable pressures facing Jordan and described them as "pressures the likes of which the Kingdom did not confront through its history."

The King said that the Kingdom was "not in a position where we are enjoying the support of a superpower or a group of countries or alliances." Even ties with Gulf Arab states have not improved since they were strained after the Gulf war, he said.

He urged a pragmatic attitude towards the Middle East peace process and stressed that Jordan, which, he said, always fulfilled its duties to the Arab nation, is seeking a just and lasting peace but not a "peace at any price."

The message that many observers had understood from the speech was that the King was complying with a condition placed on him by the U.S. administration and Congress in return for military aid.

(Continued on page 3)

Peres visit confirmed

By Nermeen Murad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan confirmed Tuesday that Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres will come to Jordan to meet his U.S. and Jordanian counterparts next week as part of a meeting of the Jordanian-U.S.-Israeli commission.

Information Minister Jawad Al Anani said that Mr. Peres will only be participating in the opening of these talks, which will be also attended by Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, in his capacity as foreign minister, and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

He said there will be no negotiations conducted between the three senior officials. He appeared to be denying a statement by an official Israeli spokesman Monday that "Mr. Peres will hold talks with Mr. Christopher and Mr. Majali."

The meeting was originally scheduled for July 22 at a site in the Dead Sea area. On Monday however, both Mr. Christopher and Mr. Peres indicated the meeting would take place on July 20, two days after Israeli and Jordanian officials open border and water negotiations in Wadi Araba.

But Dr. Anani said that as of Tuesday, the date was "still not final" and that it was "subject to discussion."

Officials yesterday were still making preparations for this meeting and a bilateral meeting that will begin on July 18 in the Qaa Taba in Wadi Araba, which is across the border from Israel. Their main task will be to ensure that the two sets of negotiations do not mesh together and that a proper sequencing of the two is established.

Jordanian negotiators have explained that they want to ensure that there is separation between the bilateral talks, which they say will concentrate on Jordanian rights, and the trilateral talks which will lay the ground for economic cooperation but will not finalise any agreements before the bilateral talks have achieved concrete progress.

The change in dates for the trilateral talks from July 22 to July 20 threatened to make the two sets of negotiations appear as if they are one and the same which may give the impression that Jordan was negotiating economic cooperation alongside the "rights" negotiations.

Negotiators had said that they expected the first round of bilateral talks would concentrate on the "modalities" of the negotiations for a "couple of days."

Israeli negotiators and the

(Continued on page 3)

Arafat and wife return to Gaza to take up residence

GAZA CITY (Agencies) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, accompanied by his wife Suba, returned to the Gaza Strip Tuesday to take up permanent residence and run the Palestinian self-rule government.

Mr. Arafat crossed the border from Egypt at the dusty Rafah terminal and was greeted by only two of the 19-member autonomy government he heads, Justice Minister Freih Abu Medin and Housing Minister Zakaria Al Agha. Also on hand was the PLO police chief, Major General Nasser Yousef.

The reception was low key. Small knots of people gathered along the road to Gaza City, dapping as Mr. Arafat's five-car motorcade passed.

There were few flags or banners along the route and very sparse crowds on the streets of Gaza City when the motorcade whisked into the downtown police headquarters.

Mr. Arafat's spokesman Marwan Kanafani told reporters one of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader's first tasks would be to find a place to live for his wife and 50 Palestinian orphans who will come Friday.

Mr. Kanafani said Mr. Arafat would not have a luxurious palace.

"Arafat is a very simple man, and he's looking for a simple house," said Mr. Kanafani.

"The presidential palace will reflect the character of the Palestinian people and the hardship the Palestinian masses have faced," he said.

Mr. Arafat made his historic return to Gaza after 27 years in exile on July 1. He left for a week to attend a



Surrounded by Palestinian officers, Yasser Arafat returns for good to Gaza City on Tuesday (AFP photo)

Paris summit with Israeli leaders and to Tunis for a formal departure ceremony Monday.

More than 1,000 officials were expected to move to Gaza from Tunis, where the PLO was based for a decade after being driven out of Beirut by Israel's invasion of Lebanon. Among those expected Friday were senior aides Yasser Arafat's wife Suba, 30, and her sister Hala.

Mrs. Arafat told reporters that both she and her husband were extremely happy to be in Gaza. She said Mr. Arafat had looked out at the Mediterranean and told her that for the first time he felt like he was looking at his own coastline.

"He told me that he no longer feels like an exile," said Mrs. Arafat, dressed in a beige suit. She said she would concentrate on women's and humanitarian issues in Gaza.

Referring to Mr. Arafat by his nom de guerre, she told the Associated Press: "Abu Ammar doesn't deceive his people."

She was seated with Intisar Al Wazir, the minister of labour and social welfare and the only woman on the self-rule council.

"We are facing now the challenge of building a Palestinian state. We have to depend on ourselves and not the donors," she said.

In Israel Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said a most pressing problem was rescuing the economy.

Israeli shot in Gaza

GAZA CITY (AFP) — Palestinians shot and slightly wounded an Israeli in a car near the town of Khan Yunes on Tuesday, military officials said. The Israeli army launched a search for the attackers and set up roadblocks while the man was teed off to the spot. The attack was later claimed by the Islamic Jihad group in a statement from Damascus.

Babel criticises Islamic rules

BAGHDAD (R) — A newspaper published by President Saddam Hussein's eldest son Uday on Tuesday disapproved of recent government measures applying Islamic law in Iraq, including a ban on drinking alcohol in public. The paper Babel, in a daring front-page editorial, warned the government that the latest ruling barring public drinking and dancing and applying Islamic Sharia penal codes might encourage Islamic movements in the country. "Such dealing with Islamic trends and thoughts in a country like Iraq has to be subject to delicate calculations," the influential Babel wrote.

Beirut embassy scene of Yemeni feud

BEIRUT (AP) — The government on Tuesday warned loyalist diplomats holding the Yemeni embassy here to evacuate the premises or face police action. Foreign Ministry officials said the ultimatum followed a formal complaint lodged by Yemeni Ambassador Ahmad Al Mutawakkel that diplomats loyal to the defeated southern regime in Yemen had seized the embassy building. Mr. Mutawakkel and other diplomats loyal to the Sanaa government have been holed up at a Beirut hotel ever since the outbreak of hostilities in their country. The charge d'affaires, Abdullah Nasser Al Muthanna, and a few of his colleagues who are southerners loyal to the south, have been barricaded in the two-storey embassy building at Beirut's Bir Al Abed residential district. Lebanese Foreign Ministry sources, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the men would be evicted by force if they did not vacate the embassy by Friday. Telephone calls to the embassy went unanswered.

Israel ready for dialogue on Jerusalem shrines with Jordan

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said Tuesday that Israel is ready to discuss the future of Christian and Muslim holy sites in Jerusalem, and a newspaper said Israel is considering putting them under international control.

Mr. Peres said there would be no compromise on Israel's "sovereignty" over all Jerusalem.

"But concerning the options, the rights and needs of the various believers, we are open to proposals," Mr. Peres said, singling out Jordan as a partner in such a dialogue.

The daily Maariv said Israel is weighing a plan to hand the holy places to an international administration that would include Jordan, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, the Vatican and the Palestinians.

The holy sites would be considered non-Israeli territory, Maariv said in its front-page story.

The daily said an outline of the plan was discussed in a

very general fashion with Jordan and Morocco. Saudi Arabia and the Vatican have also been briefed, the report said.

Mr. Peres' spokeswoman, Behira Bardugo, denied such a plan was being discussed. "We haven't had any meetings or consultations on this," she told the Associated Press.

Maariv said the holy sites would include the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, hallowed by what is believed to be Christ's grave, and the Dome of the Rock and Al Aqsa Mosque — the third holiest in Islam.

All three are located in East Jerusalem, which the Palestinians demand as the capital of a future state.

Israel seized the eastern sector from Jordan in 1967 and later "annexed" it. But few nations, including the United States, recognise its complete "sovereignty."

Control over the city is the most sensitive, emotional issue in the peace negotiations. Talks over its future were postponed in the current round that brought

Palestinian self-rule in Gaza and the West Bank town of Jericho. But it is part of final status talks to be completed within five years.

In recent weeks, Israel has emphasised Jordan's role in administering the Muslim holy sites. All Islamic institutions are run by the Waqf, or Islamic trust, which is under Jordanian control.

Mr. Peres said Tuesday that King Hussein did not have to worry about his standing in East Jerusalem.

"The King until today has infloored over the holy sites through his influence over the Waqf, and we have no interest in harming the traditional influence he has had," Mr. Peres told reporters.

"We are not here to weaken Jordan's status."

Referring to the Palestinians, Mr. Peres said that Israel would take "all measures at our disposal, including legal ones," to prevent them from turning East Jerusalem into what he called a

(Continued on page 3)

Aden desperate for food, water

ADEN (Agencies) — Hungry Aden residents clamoured on Tuesday for food and water as the city's food stocks ran low. The International Committee of the Red Cross said it was repairing damaged water pipelines but needed more support from northern authorities to operate in the chaos of Aden.

Fewer northern soldiers were visible on Monday in the dusty, garbage strewn streets and there were no signs of the widespread looting that had plagued the city since it was captured by northern forces on Thursday crushing southern bids to secede from four years of unity with the north.

The government had said troops would withdraw from the streets and hand over control of the city to security police.

Northern ministers gathered at a white-washed villa on a cliff overlooking the Indian Ocean to find ways to restore order to the city, which they declared the economic capital of Yemen.

Defence Minister Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi told Reuters at the villa, where ministers and their aides

toured around discussing the city's plight, that the ministers had to gather in Aden, which southern secessionists had named as their capital.

It was not clear if they would hold a cabinet meeting.

Meanwhile from his exile retreat in Oman, the leader of South Yemen's failed effort at secession has reportedly promised to eschew politics, but his top aides vowed Tuesday to carry on with the struggle.

"We will establish a true democratic regime in south (Yemen), and then a similar one in the north," said Abdul Rahman Al Jifri from his home in exile in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

"We already are a government, and we will work from within and from without," he said in a telephone interview.

His comments reflected the depth of the feelings that led to the nine-week war between President Saleh and southern secessionist leader Ali Salem Al Beidh.

Mr. Jifri, a longtime resistance leader, first against British colonial rule and then against the brand of Marxism

espoused by Mr. Beidh until the collapse of the Soviet Union, said that even if Beidh had given up the struggle there were other southern leaders who had not.

Oman, where Mr. Beidh fled before the fall of Aden, said Monday that the southern leader had promised to keep out of politics.

Omani Information Minister Abdul Aziz Al Rawas said Mr. Beidh "announced to the Omani authorities that he had given up politics and would not lead any political activity from Oman or anywhere else."

The minister, on a brief visit to Yemen, added that "all military equipment taken to Oman by the (southern) rebels would be given back to the Yemeni authorities when they want it."

Sanaa has said that several arms and military equipment including MiG-29 airplanes and warships had been taken by fleeing southern leaders to neighbouring countries.

Meanwhile a southern deputy told AFP that Mr. Beidh's Yemen Socialist Party (YSP) could meet soon in Sanaa to elect a new leader.

Kim Jong-Il appears in command in Pyongyang

SEOUL (Agencies) — North Korea's late "great leader" Kim Il-Sung lay in state on Tuesday as his son Kim Jong-Il appeared to take up the reins of power in the communist world's first dynastic succession.

South Korean Television showed pictures of a tearful Kim Jong-Il receiving guests invited to the presidential palace in central Pyongyang to pay their last respects to his father, whose body reposed in a crystal sarcophagus.

It showed Defence Minister O Jin-U, Prime Minister Kang Song-San and other senior figures at Kim Jong-Il's side during the ceremony, a sign the North Korean political and military elite was firmly behind the younger Kim's succession.

"The scene verified what is now taken for granted here — that the transfer of power to the son is complete except for the official announcement," Seoul's Yonhap domestic news agency said.

Kim Jong-Il, 32, groomed by his father as his successor for decades, did not speak a word to the envoys who bowed to the bier.

One of the diplomats, contacted by telephone, said ambassadors, military attaches and a few others were summoned to the presidential palace and waited for four hours before being allowed in to view the coffin and shake the hands of the most important leaders present.

"Kim Jong-Il was present as the first person, the number one," the diplomat said.

Israel, PLO agree agenda for talks on spreading self-rule

CAIRO (Agencies) — Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) took the first cautious steps on Tuesday towards extending Palestinian self-rule through the West Bank, by agreeing on an agenda for talks at the end of a two-day meeting here.

"We have established a detailed agenda, and defined the terms of reference for negotiations," said the PLO's top negotiator Nabil Shaath.

The next round of negotiations will formally begin on Monday, and the PLO hopes they will be completed by October in time for elections to an autonomous council in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Dr. Shaath said Tuesday that the release of 37 Palestinian women jailed in Israel would top discussions next week.

The women, who are held in a jail outside Tel Aviv, met Tuesday with Faisal Husseini, the first senior PLO official to visit a prison in Israel, as scores of Israeli and Palestinian women demonstrated outside for their release.

Women prisoners, "special cases" and the remainder of the 5,000 prisoners that Israel promised to release in the accord would all be discussed by a sub-committee, Dr. Shaath said. Israel has so far freed less than 4,000 prisoners.

PLO officials said the hottest issue was that of several thousand Palestinian prisoners still in Israeli jails, including the founder of the Hamas movement, Sheikh Ahmad Yassin.

Dr. Shaath said several hundred, which could be as many as 800, have not been released as agreed in May, apparently for refusing to sign an amended undertaking of renouncing acts of violence against Israel once freed.

"We've asked the Israelis to give us a detailed list of those who if they signed would be released and they have promised to submit one to us," Dr. Shaath told reporters.

"Next week they will give us or within the next week a detailed list of the detainees," he said.

Hamas and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, for example, have agreed that all their members sign the undertaking and when they signed they were released, he added.

Dr. Shaath said the amended undertaking did not force prisoners to sign a commitment supporting the PLO-Israeli accord but pledging they would not practice violence after their release.

"It seems there were some Palestinian organisations that did not do that like Jihad and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), or others."

"We want to make sure that these 800 are freed quickly. In order to have no misunderstanding, we said to the Israelis 'listen we want to know is there really 800 who do not want to sign because I cannot see where these 800 could come from,'" he said.

It is one of the issues left over from the Israeli-PLO autonomy accord of May 4, which launched self-rule in the Gaza Strip and Jericho.

Experts urge technical and financial aid for self-rule

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Now that the technical aspects of the Israeli-Palestinian autonomy agreement have taken hold in Gaza and Jericho, the next stage in the Palestinian-Israeli track of the peace process is widening Palestinian self-rule to the rest of the occupied West Bank, a symposium held in Toronto has heard.

Simultaneous with strengthening the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) in the territories, technical and financial assistance should also be extended to help develop the land and upgrade the living standards of the people living there, speakers told the symposium, which concluded on Monday.

Addressing the concluding session, Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) representative Nasser Al Kidwa assured the audience that the PNA was committed to building a democratic Palestinian state through elections.

A summary of the six-day symposium made available to the Jordan Times by the United Nations said that speakers during the event emphasised that the PNA "was overwhelmed with the tasks that lay ahead and would need financial and technical assistance."

"They urged non-governmental organisations (NGOs), particularly Palestinian non-governmental organisations, to work out a framework in which they would coordinate their efforts and cooperate with the new authority," said the summary.

Attention was also invited to the needs of the Palestinian refugees living outside the occupied territories, it said. Speakers cautioned that the needs of refugees should not be overlooked, it said.

One of the speakers, Nasser Aruri, a professor of political science at the University of Massachusetts, criticised some of the "basic provisional law" that has been adopted by the PNA as its charter for the transitional period saying they were not

consonant with the democratic process.

In a clear reference to the widely held belief that PLO leaders who have lived decades in exile do not clearly understand the political features of the occupied lands, Dr. Aruri said that "while others could make important contributions, the basic law should be written by people whose lives it would affect."

Palestinians are now faced with building the national authority in accordance with the modalities of the Oslo agreement signed in September and the limiting procedures of the Cairo agreement signed in May, Dr. Aruri noted.

While the Palestinian people have considerable experience in state-building and institution-building, efforts to build the national authority should be "consonant with the requirements of civil society" — accountability, responsibility, rule of law, popular sovereignty, and consent on the ground.

The last draft of the provisional basic law — a charter for Palestinian self-rule during the transitional period — had made substantial progress in limiting executive authority, Dr. Aruri said.

"Despite its positive features, the human rights section had troubling limitations, such as language which seriously weakened some protections," he said. "In all cases, state police power was made superior to the right, instead of the right being made superior to ordinary law. The declaration of rights extended only limited protection to political rights. Most disturbing was the failure to provide for the voting franchise. The protections of speech and other political activities were also equivocal."

The Toronto symposium was organised by the committee on the exercise of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people and focused on the role of North American NGOs in Palestinian rebuilding.

Among those who spoke on the closing day were Marc Perron, representative of Canada, Sarah Kammer,

planning consultant for neighbourhood organisations in West and East Jerusalem, Janice Abu Shakra of the Palestinian Human Rights Information in Jerusalem, the Rev. Ibrahim Ayyad, president of the Palestine Committee for NGOs, Larry Ekin, chairman of the North American Coordinating Committee for NGOs on the Question of Palestine and Keba Birane Cisse of Senegal, chairman of the Palestinian Rights Committee.

Mr. Perron, whose country chairs the Middle East multilateral working group of refugees, called for a review to find out "whether priorities and programmes were adapting to the changes on the ground."

He said that for the thousands of Palestinians, "who felt unwanted, ashamed and destitute, the emerging arrangement represented a source of hope."

"The refugees outside the territories, however, needed to see that the peace process would also benefit them and allow them to live in dignity," the symposium summary quoted Mr. Perron as saying. "Unless that was accomplished, there would be no peace."

The Canadian representative called on the Palestinian NGOs to shift their focus "from politics to economics" and pointed out that the PNA was now the focal figure on channeling aid to the territories rather than NGOs which used to adopt their own programmes and priorities while dispensing aid.

Ms. Kammer said 86 per cent of the land of East Jerusalem could not be used by Arabs. In the 14 per cent that remained, people lived in appalling conditions and were under the constant threat of having their homes slated for demolition.

Many Palestinians, unable to build homes on their own land, left East Jerusalem. That, of course, helped the Israeli plan to make East Jerusalem the "eternal capital" of the Jewish people. That slogan had the power of a national symbol but the

Jewish people did not understand the effects it had on the lives of the Arabs living in Jerusalem.

Ms. Abu Shakra said the plan to Judaize Jerusalem meant the equivalent of homelessness or living in sub-standard conditions for 21,000 Palestinians. Non-governmental organisations could make a difference by bringing those Palestinians onto their agenda. A basic principle of joint non-governmental organisation action was that Palestinian non-governmental organisations had to initiate the action and tell the international non-governmental organisations what their priorities were.

She said the anticipation of becoming homeless inspired "shame and terror." In the last year, over 200 homes had been demolished without any notice being taken by the media or the international community. The Human Rights Committee had organised a mass registration to draw attention to those forced into homelessness as well as those families who had demolition orders against their homes. She hoped that publication of the Israeli policy would generate local and international responses.

The Symposium participants elected, by secret ballot, a 12-member coordinating committee for 1994-1995. Elected from the United States were the American Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee; the Episcopal Church, the USA; Methodist Federation for Social Action; the Palestine Aid Society; the Palestine Human Rights Information Centre; the Presbyterian Church; the Union of Palestinian American Women; and the Union of Palestinian Women's Association in North America.

Elected from Canada were the Canadian Auto Workers' Social Justice Fund; the Centre d'études Arabes pour le développement; and the Near East Cultural and Educational Foundation of Canada.

Palestinians want deeds not words from Arafat

GAZA CITY (AFP) — Palestinians are hoping Yasser Arafat is returning to the Gaza Strip for good with concrete plans to put into action rather than empty promises.

Palestinian sources said he was to leave early Tuesday for Al Arish, and then enter Gaza via the Rafah border crossing.

Mr. Arafat is to take up his seat as head of the Palestinian National Authority to run affairs in the new self-rule areas of Gaza and Jericho after bidding farewell to Tunis where he lived for 12 years.

But only old banners and flags left over from his visit on July 1 fluttered in Gaza on Monday as Mr. Arafat's security and police forces met in the evening to prepare for his second arrival.

From staunch supporters of the PLO chief to his critics and opponents, Palestinians here say they love peace, but would prefer if with it came jobs and a better future.

"I love the president (Arafat)," said Nasr Hassan, a carpenter who is now unemployed. "But what good will it do me if I love him and he can't feed me. I want to love him, and eat and feed my family."

Mr. Arafat acknowledged he faced an uphill task before he left Tunis, saying a very busy schedule awaited him in Gaza.

He said the situation in Gaza is "close to famine, the infrastructure totally destroyed and unemployment hitting 58 per cent of the population."

Mr. Hassan is an example of many in Gaza. He has been out of a job for more

than a year, and since then has been working at the Gaza telephone exchange for a quarter the regular salary.

He and 80 others like him in the same department have been paid by Israel until last month. As of July, the Palestinian authority will take over payments, he said.

While Mr. Hassan is a supporter of Mr. Arafat's mainstream Fatah faction and lives in a relatively comfortable neighbourhood of Gaza City, others in the refugee camp of Al Shati had mixed feelings about Mr. Arafat's return.

"We were joyful the first time he came," said Atta Zaki, 48, a store keeper. "But now, as he is back to stay his return is becoming a regular, normal thing."

"We have problems in this camp, we need to pull down everything and start from scratch," Mr. Zaki said, pointing to squalid rows of cramped houses and garbage-strewn streets around him.

"Can he (Arafat) do all this alone? We are not blaming him, but why did he sign an agreement without first getting the money," said Mr. Zaki, who is a member of the opposition Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP).

Mr. Arafat has accused Western donors of not producing the promised funds. So far only \$60 million out of some \$720 million pledged for this year have been put up.

"The last time he came, did anything change?" asked another DFLP follower who refused to be identified.

"I am not against the person, but against his policies."

PECDAR sits by as PLO takes over development

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — The Palestinian Economic Council for Development and Reconstruction (PECDAR), set up last year to assure donors, has wound down activity recently as the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has moved into self-rule areas and taken over development, Palestinian officials say.

The officials and donor sources say the resulting confusion about who is responsible for what in the complex Palestinian development process is likely to prompt donors to delay transfer of funds, angering the PLO.

PLO leader Yasser Arafat has started talking darkly about a conspiracy to stifle Palestinian self-rule by depriving it of the money it needs to get the economy moving and win vital Palestinian support for its peace deal with Israel.

"What is not clear is whether the new ministries are going to grab all of PECDAR's functions and we will disappear," said a senior official at PECDAR.

Mohammad Al Nashashibi, a member of the PLO Executive Committee and close to Mr. Arafat for 20 years, started running the self-rule finance department in Gaza and Jericho last month. Palestinians inside the territories say PLO officials are playing an unexpectedly large role there.

Another key area of doubt is how PECDAR will coordinate with the new Department of Planning and International Cooperation, headed by Arafat adviser Nabil Shaath.

"Aid coordination should be done through one body and this should be PECDAR as it has established itself and set up relations with donors," said Samir Abdullah, head of economic planning at the body.

"Whoever says the old (PLO) machinery can run the task here is making a deadly mistake. To keep the old machinery unadapted means a total failure. I can guarantee it," he added.

As well as the new ministry, the PLO will maintain an international relations department and the Palestine National Fund outside the self-rule areas. PLO sources say there are various other funds elsewhere about which little is known.

Work at PECDAR's headquarters just outside Jerusalem has halted in recent weeks because of the confusion. Officials admit they are largely marking time there.

In the corridors, technicians now talk of the possibility of the body, supposed to be the World Bank to oversee a multi-billion dollar development plan, will be reduced to a glorified think-tank for development policy.

But this seems likely to upset donors, who first urged the PLO to set up PECDAR last year to ensure aid funds would be properly channelled and accounted for.

Arafat's transition during 12 years

TUNIS (AFP) — Yasser Arafat, preparing to adopt the mantle of head of the new Palestinian Authority, turned from guerrilla leader to peacemaker during his 12 years of exile in Tunisia.

"At Tunis, we learned to stop at red lights, to wait in queues, to pay fines to women police officers," said one Palestinian official before heading with Mr. Arafat on Monday for the autonomous Gaza Strip and Jericho.

"Even Abu Ammar (Arafat) is not married just to the revolution any more," he smiled. Mr. Arafat married his ex-colleague Suha Tawil during his time in Tunisia.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) set up headquarters in Tunis in 1982 after Israeli forces drove his guerrillas from Lebanon.

It was in Tunisia, in December 1988, that the first official contacts were made between the PLO and the United States, after the Palestinian leadership implicitly recognised the state of Israel and officially renounced "terrorism."

These early talks soon fell through and were officially suspended in June 1990, but the seeds of negotiations had been planted and the idea of a Middle East peace conference began to grow.

Tunisia profited too — even though it had had little choice in complying with a U.S. request to welcome Mr. Arafat's party.

It acted as a go-between between Americans and Palestinians, and gave quiet but unreserved backing first to the secret negotiations in Oslo, then the declaration of principles on Palestinian self-rule signed in Washington in September 1993.

In October 1993, Tunis was one of the first Arab capitals to host multilateral negotiations involving Israeli officials.

If Tunisia has been the PLO's only peaceful Arab home in exile, and if Palestinians of all persuasions never tire of praising both the country and its president, it is because the ground rules of their stay were fixed firmly in advance.

Tunisia's then president, Habib Bourguiba, made Palestinian fighters arriving from Beirut with Kalashnikov rifles lay down their arms.

He ordered Mr. Arafat not to use his country as a base for training guerrillas or launching attacks.

In exchange, Tunisia pledged to respect the PLO's freedom of decision and to stay out of its internal affairs.

As a result Palestinian-Tunisian relations under Mr. Bourguiba were distant but polite.

Rules were rarely broken and the PLO was threatened with expulsion only once in October 1985 — when the Tunisians learned that Abu Abbas, a PLO member in Tunis, was behind the hijacking of the Italian passenger ferry Achille-Lauro.

Mr. Arafat snubbed Tunisia for a while before returning to his headquarters, then at Hamman-Sott, a modest suburb in southern Tunis.

Israel's bombardment of Hamman-Sott also in October 1985, which left almost 200 Palestinians and Tunisians dead and wounded, strained relations between the Tunisian authorities and the PLO.

But the incident forged deep-seated feelings of solidarity between the Tunisians and Palestinians.

Palestinians still recall with emotion radio appeals broadcast by Tunisian hospitals for blood donors, and the huge crowds of people who responded.

The accession to power of President Zine Al Abidine Ben Ali, who Mr. Arafat calls Zein Al Arab or cream of Arabs, ushered in a long-lasting honeymoon period.

Even the deaths of two legendary PLO leaders — Khalil Al Wazir (Abu Jihad) at the hands of an Israeli commando in April 1988 and Salah Khalaf (Abu Iyad) in January 1991 — as well as the PLO's pro-Iraqi stance during the Gulf war, failed to damage relations.

Iraqi held while testifying in court on arms exports

AUGSBURG (AP) — An Iraqi man was arrested Monday while testifying to a court investigating illegal arms exports to his country.

Abdul Jabara, 53, was led away in handcuffs. In 1987, a court in Munich sentenced Mr. Jabara to six-and-a-half years in jail for arms trafficking. He was later deported. Officials said a warrant for his arrest has been in force ever since.

The defence lawyer at Monday's hearing angrily condemned his arrest. He said Mr. Jabara, who now lives in Switzerland, had been given a written guarantee by the head of the court that he would not be arrested if he came back to Germany to testify.

The judge replied that the guarantee applied to a different date, when Mr. Jabara had not shown up to testify. Mr. Jabara confirmed he had worked as an agent for Baghdad between 1978 and 1986. He said that during this time he had met both Germany's then chief of police,

Heinrich Bogel, and the then head of German intelligence, Klaus Kinkel, who is now the foreign minister.

"Arms, though they were not described as such, were sold to both Iran and Iraq," Mr. Jabara testified Monday. The sales were made via the Munich-based electronics firm Telemint, in reality a front organisation for German intelligence, he added.

Among other things, Iraq was able to acquire laser-assisted tank guns with the full knowledge of the German government, Jabara said.

Both Mr. Kinkel and Mr. Bogel have testified they knew nothing of the arms sales.

Ten months ago the court here charged 70-year-old entrepreneur Anton Eyrle, who worked for the company Rhein-Bayern-Fahrzeugbau, with selling military hardware to Baghdad between 1987 and 1990, notably detonators for the Iraqi version of the Scud-B missile.

Syria says no peace without it taking part

DAMASCUS (R) — Syria, which has seen the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) make peace with Israel and Jordan draw closer to serious negotiations with the Jewish state, on Tuesday welcomed a Middle East tour by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher but said no comprehensive settlement could be achieved without Damascus.

A Syrian spokesman said Damascus felt its position was "very strong" because it was identical to that of the United States and because it was based on U.N. resolutions.

He said: "Partial and separate deals, which are not based on the principles of the Middle East peace process, can not make a just and comprehensive peace which can live."

"Syria, which called for coordination among the Arab parties, did not look with

satisfaction to what happened on the Palestinian and Jordanian tracks because Syria realises that a just and comprehensive peace can never be achieved without Syria," one official said.

He said Syria's position on the peace process was based on a Syrian-U.S. agreement with former U.S. President George Bush and reaffirmed by President Bill Clinton.

"Syria believes the statements issued by Clinton, expressing commitment to the objectives of the peace process, constitute a reaffirmation that the U.S. is still adhering to the peace process and agreement reached between Damascus and Washington," he said.

"Syria does not see any difference between her and the U.S. as long as this administration continued to commit itself to the principles on which the peace process was based..."

Washington had promised to work for the achievement of a comprehensive peace settlement between Israel and Arabs based on U.N. resolutions 242 and 338.

"Syria believes that the difficulty in the peace process does not exist between Syria and Washington but between the U.S. and Israel," the official said.

"Israel is still refusing to implement U.N. resolutions which call upon her — as Syria sees — to withdraw to border lines which existed on June 4, 1967, as the first and basic step to make a progress on the Syrian track," he said.

Meanwhile, U.S. Ambassador Mark Hambley said in Beirut Mr. Christopher will not visit Lebanon on his upcoming Middle East tour.

"I don't think he will have a chance to visit Lebanon on this trip," Mr. Hambley told reporters after meeting Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Bouze.

Iranians appeal for fate of loved ones

BEIRUT (AP) — The families of four Iranians missing in Lebanon since 1982 pleaded with the Beirut government Tuesday to make a fresh effort to determine the fate of their loved ones.

A delegation representing wives and children of the missing Iranians, which arrived from Tehran Monday, made the appeal during meetings with Lebanese government and religious leaders.

"We appeal on behalf of the visiting delegation to government and judicial authorities in Lebanon to make a more determined endeavour to resolve this case," said Lebanese Sheikh Mohammad Mehdi Shamsuddin.

He heads the Higher Shiite Council, which runs the day-to-day religious affairs of the 1.2 million Shiite Muslims who make up Lebanon's largest single sect.

JORDAN TELEVISION
Tel. 77111-19

PROGRAMME TWO
17:00 Tao-Tao
17:30 N.B.A. sport
18:30 News in French
18:45 Le Journal De L'Histoire
19:00 News in Hebrew
19:15 Great Moments in Science & Technology
19:30 The FBI: The Untold Stories
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Coach
22:00 News in English
22:30 Poldark

PRAYER TIMES
04:00 Fajr
10:34 (Sunrise) Duha
12:41 Dhahr
12:52 'Asr
19:40 Maghrib
21:22 Isha

CHURCHES
St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Tel. 61740
St. Joseph Church Tel. 62494
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 62740
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Ternassia Church Tel. 622366

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541
Anglican Church Tel. 63051, Tel. 62843
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Armenian International Church Tel. 652526
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 624338
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 694195
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654922
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675991
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 511295

WEATHER
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
Normal summer weather conditions will prevail with winds, north-westerly moderate. In Aquila, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.
Min./Max. temp. 19/30
Aqaba 25/38
Deserts 17/34
Jordan Valley 24/37
Yesterday's high temperatures:

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Amman 30 Aqaba 35. Humidity readings: Amman 27 per cent, Aqaba 23 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY
AMMAN:
Dr. Jamil Tarif 784710
Dr. Abnan Haidim 85446
Dr. Fayez Dabhas 759153
Dr. Shabaneh Al Izzeh 753774
Pina pharmacy 661912
Ferdous pharmacy 773336
Al Asoma pharmacy 627055
Nairokh pharmacy 626772
Al Salami pharmacy 649495
Shameeni pharmacy 637661
Nairokh pharmacy 626772
Najib pharmacy 847653

IRBID:
Dr. Ahmad Qasbi (—)
Al Quds pharmacy (—)

ZARQA:
Dr. Fawaz Hamdallah 903644
Khalilkh pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES
Food Control Centre 637111

Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Emergency 630241
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 751211
Highway Police 863402
Traffic Police 896790
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 605801
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage Complaints 877467
Amman Municipality Complaints 767111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone Repairs 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 660101
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

Electric Power Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 18-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 18-53201

HOSPITALS
AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 812813/32

Khalidi Maternity, J. Ann 642816
Akileh Maternity, J. Ann 642412
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmeisani 664171/4
Shmeisani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Musaher Hospital 667227/9
The Islamic, Abdali 666127/37
Al-Ahli, Abdali 666164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajira 777101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 771112/6
Army, Marks 891611/5
Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50
Amal Hospital 674155
ZARQA:
Zarqa Gov. Hospital (09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital 1725
The Sina Hospital (09)908560
Al-Hikma Modern Hospital (09)999991
Princess Basma Hospital 10272555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272225
Ibn Al Nafis Hospital (02)347110
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital 03334111

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)33200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
07:30 Jeddah (RJ)
09:30 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
09:45 Larnaca (RJ)
10:25 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
16:00 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
17:15 Madrid (RJ)
17:25 London (RJ)
18:25 Istanbul (RJ)
19:00 Brussels, Geneva (RJ)
19:25 Frankfurt, Vienna (RJ)
20:00 Toronto, Montreal (RJ)
00:40 Beirut (RJ)
01:20 Cairo (RJ)
03:00 Riyadh (add) (RJ)

FOR THE TRAVELLER
QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
10:30 Riyadh (add) (SV)
11:15 Damascus (AZ)
11:25 Larnaca (CY)
11:30 Jeddah (SV)

HJAZ RAILWAY TRAIN
Dep. Amman 8:00 a.m. every Monday
Arr. Damascus 5:00 p.m. every Monday
Dep. Damascus 7:30 a.m. every Sunday
Arr. Amman 5:30 p.m. every Sunday

MARKET PRICES
Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

Apple 550/450
Apricots 800/700
Banana 600
Banana (Mukannar) 620
Cabbage 140/80
Carrot 250/180
Cobra 1300/800
Cucumbers 1200/700
Cauliflower 220/120
Chestnuts 100/50
Cucumbers (small) 200/120
Eggplant 150/100
Fig 460/360
Garlic 700/500
Grape 500/380
Lemon 750/450
Marrow (large) 80/40
Marrow (small) 160/90
Mushrooms 700/500
Okra 200/100
Orange 300/250
Onion (dry) 200/100
Sweet Melon 180/100
Pepper (hot) 300/200
Pepper (sweet) 240/180
Potato 400/300
Peaches 800/700
Tomato 100/50
String beans 350/250
Watermelon 100/50

دليل في الحياة

Ministry urges cut in non-Jordanian workers

AMMAN (Petra) — Labour Minister Khaled Ghazawi Tuesday urged the General Union of Green Grocers and Agricultural Wholesalers to reduce the number of non-Jordanian workers employed by the union at the central produce market in Amman and to open employment to Jordanians.

Addressing a meeting attended by union representatives, Mr. Ghazawi said the organisation should assist the Kingdom with its unemployment problem by employing Jordanian workers at the market.

There are 567 guest workers and 350 Jordanians currently employed at the central market, according to ministry statistics.

The minister and union representatives reached an agreement requiring guest workers to obtain a special permit to work at the market and agreed that no guest worker should be employed by any of the merchants in clerical, accountancy and fee-collecting jobs.

The two sides also agreed that non-Jordanian workers employed in loading and unloading vegetables and fruits be issued permits for this job, provided the merchants gradually reduce their non-Jordanian staffs and fill the vacancies with Jordanians.

Spanish T.V. team arrives to shoot documentary film

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A five-person Spanish television team arrived here Monday on a two-week visit to the Kingdom to produce a documentary programme about Jordanian historic sites, sources at the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities said Tuesday.

The visiting team, from the Spanish television channel Television Espanola (TVE), is being hosted by the ministry and will tour Aqaba, Petra, Jerash and the Dead Sea, the source told the Jordan Times.

The team intends to introduce the tourist sites of Jordan to the Spanish television audience, which according to the source, is "considered one of the most important tourist markets for Jordan."

In 1993, Jordan was visited on 11,136 Spanish tourists.

The team of Esther V. Garcia, Teresa Righonzo, Adnan M. Ali Jaber, Jose Luis F. De Pablos and Francisco J. B. Berez will also conduct meetings with officials to discuss the tourism industry in Jordan.

According to the source, the team has already started visiting some sites and is expected to meet with the Minister Mohammad Adwan in the coming days.

On Monday, speaking upon his return from a visit to Spain, where he led Jordan's side to the Jordanian-Spanish Committee, Minister of Planning Hisham Al Khatib said the Spanish government has expressed readiness to help finance a Jordanian project to develop one of the Kingdom's tourism schemes.

Crown Prince calls for employing Zakat funds towards social solidarity in Islamic societies

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Tuesday called on Muslim scholars and researchers in Islam to promote and expand the concept of Zakat (collecting alms for the poor) and employ the funds to achieve social solidarity in Islamic communities.

Zakat funds should be invested in production schemes employing workers and benefiting local Muslim communities, especially the needy, said Prince Hassan in an address to the opening of a three-day seminar organised at Al Hashemeh Palace.

"I have earlier called for the establishment of an international Zakat organisation and I have sent out messages to this effect to leading scholars in our Islamic World," said the Crown Prince in his address delivered on his behalf by Nassereddin Al Assad, president of the Royal Academy for Islamic Civilisation Research (Al al Bayt Foundation) which organised the meeting.

Should this organisation see the light of day it would serve as a model of inter-Islamic cooperation in enhancing social solidarity aimed at ensuring security for the Islamic society, said the Crown Prince.

Recent statistics have shown that nearly one third of the population in the Third World, or nearly 1,300 million people, are living in absolute poverty, and more than 70 per cent of the world



President of Al al Bayt Foundation Nassereddin Al Assad (third from right) Tuesday delivers an address on behalf of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan

to a meeting on Zakat and social solidarity in Islam attended by Muslim scholars from the Arab and Islamic worlds (Petra photo)

refugee population are Muslims, noted Prince Hassan in his address to nearly 50 scholars from Arab and Islamic countries.

Zakat is one of the five tenets of Islam and has been imposed by Islam to help solve economic, financial and poverty problems and create stability within the Muslim society by rallying the faithful to help the needy and the disabled, Prince Hassan reminded the audience.

"Since we all seek to establish social justice, we ought to employ Zakat funds in investment projects within the framework of the common good, and Muslim scholars can create a formula to achieve this goal," said Prince Hassan.

"We have been witnessing a very disturbing phenomena recently: Economic growth devoid of job opportunities, prompting policy makers to give due attention to sustainable development plans that cater to the creation of jobs as well as ensuring economic growth," said the Crown Prince.

He added that Al al Bayt Foundation, which comprises scholars representing various schools of thought in Islam serves as the best vehicle for ensuring the implementation of this symposium.

Organised under the title "Zakat and Social Solidarity in Islam," the symposium is attended by delegates who will review working papers

on financing social solidarity in Islam, the legitimacy of investing Zakat funds, and prospects for the establishment of an international Zakat organisation.

Delegates attending the meeting represent the following Islamic schools of thought:

Sunni: encompassing Al Shaf'ieh, Al Hanafieh, Al Malikieh and Al Hanbalieh; Shiites (mainly in Iraq and Iran in addition to other parts of the Arab World and Pakistan); Zeidieh (mostly in Yemen); and Ahadieh (in Oman).

This is the third international seminar organised by Al al Bayt Foundation to rally Muslim scholars' efforts towards serving Islamic societies.

The first meeting, entitled "Rights in Islam," was organised in Amman in July 1992; the second meeting, dealing with the same topics, was organised here in May last year.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

King condoles Hamarneh, Karadsheh and Zanariri families

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday delegated Royal Court Secretary General Munir Durra to attend the funeral of Victoria Zanariri, mother of Michel Hamarneh, director of the Office of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, and to convey the King's condolences to the Hamarneh, Karadsheh and Zanariri families.

Premier offers condolences to N. Korea

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali Tuesday called at the North Korean embassy here where he offered his condolences and those of the Jordanian government over the passing of North Korean President Kim Il Sung. Dr. Majali, who signed the condolences register, wished the People's Republic of Korea continued progress and prosperity.

Prince Abdullah wishes team good luck

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah, President of Jordan Football Association, Monday met with members of the Jordanian National Youth Team, who will be representing Jordan in the Asian Youth Soccer Championships. Prince Abdullah conveyed to the team members the best wishes of His Majesty King Hussein and listened to their views on the training camp, held recently for them in Aqaba. The meeting was attended by Youth Minister Fawwaz Abu Othman. The national youth team Monday left for Qatar, where it will play its first match with Oman Friday.

Scouts to head for camp in Egypt

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan will take part in the 21st Arab Scouting Camp, which will be held in Port Said, Egypt on Thursday. Participating in the two-week camp will be 16 Arab countries. The Jordanian delegation is headed by Ministry of Education Scouts Division head Seif Dawagreh and includes 20 scouts and four scout leaders. Ministry of Education Secretary General Munther Al Masri met with the delegation and stressed the importance of active participation in this camp as ambassadors of Jordan.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- Amman 5th Furniture Fair at the World Exhibition Centre, University Road (Tel. 847113).
- Ceramic exhibition by plastic artists Dr. Mahmoud Sadeq and Da'ud Mifteh at Bakr Barjous Engineering Establishment, University Road (Tel. 688479).
- Exhibition of paintings by Omar Hamdan Shahwan at Darat Al Fanun of the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Luweibdeh. Also showing "permanent" exhibition of 56 Arab contemporary artists (Tel. 643251/2).
- Plastic art exhibition by Hussein Da'sifi at the Phoenix Gallery for Culture and Art (Tel. 695291).
- Exhibition entitled "Arab Artists in France" at the Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts, Jabal Luweibdeh, off Al Muntazah Circle (Tel. 630128).
- Sculpture and ceramic exhibition by Iraqi artist Laith Al Turk at the Oriani Art Gallery in Umm Utheina (Tel. 826932).
- Exhibition by plastic artist Kheiri Harzallah at the Jordanian Plastic Association in Shamsani (Tel. 699914).
- Exhibition by artist Bishara Al Najjar at the Orient Gallery for Fine Arts, Gardens Str. (Tel. 698513).
- Painting exhibition by Iraqi painters "The Pioneers Group" at Al Ain Art Gallery — Wadi Saqra (Tel. 644451).



EYE ON BANKING: Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali Tuesday meets in his office with Abdullah Saoudi (second from left), president of the London-based Arab Banking Corporation (ABC), Zuhair

Khouri (second from right), chairman of the Housing Bank and Jawad Hadid, director general of the Jordan Arab Banking Institution to discuss banking issues (Petra photo)

'No conditions attached'

(Continued from page 1)

ary and material support to the kingdom, an issue that His Majesty had discussed in Saturday's meeting.

A Jordanian negotiator, who spoke to the Jordan Times earlier this week, said that the King was not going to meet Mr. Rabin "for free." Although his terminology appeared to place specific conditions on the meeting, the substance of these conditions, many analysts believe, does not contradict Dr. Anani's denial of conditions.

"For the meeting to take place," the delegate had said, at least one of two conditions had to be met: "Movement from the U.S. like writing off our bilateral foreign debt or if this meeting comes within the context of real progress."

"The meeting would necessarily have to be as a crowning of a breakthrough in our Jordan-Israel track of negotiations," said the delegate who requested anonymity.

"It cannot be for free and it must have positive ramifications," he concluded.

But these two conditions may in fact be precisely what Dr. Anani had avoided terming as "preconditions." And some well-placed analysts predict that one or both of these two conditions could be what Dr. Anani was alluding to when he said that the meeting should be "rich in content and context and gives peace a big push."

Jordan has a bilateral debt with the U.S. of \$900 million but expects that if the U.S. Congress does write off this debt, many European creditors will follow suit, encouraging, by deduction, international lending organisations to improve the economic restructuring programme conditions on the Kingdom.

Jordan is weighed down by a foreign debt of \$6.6 billion. The Jordan News Agency, Petra, adds: People from all walks of life Tuesday expressed their absolute support for King Hussein's speech on Saturday.

In cables to King Hussein, representatives of political parties, mayors and village councils' heads, tribal chiefs, refugee camps' elders and heads of voluntary societies and youth clubs voiced their full support for the Hashemite leadership.

They blessed King Hussein's efforts to lay down the foundations of a just, durable and comprehensive peace in the region and the King's endeavours to safeguard national unity and independence, and enhance security and stability in the region.

They stressed that Jordan, under the Hashemite leadership, will continue to be a strong fort in the face of all greedy targetings.

Deputies from the National Action Front (NAF), a group involving independent deputies, sent a cable to King Hussein voicing full support and backing for his efforts and endeavours to maintain security and stability.

The General Conference of the Jordanian Democratic Popular Unity Party (Unionists) voiced appreciation for the King's speech describing it as comprehensive. In a cable to the King, the party's general conference said the King's focus on the need to safeguard national unity "is a true confirmation of the original positions contained in the thought of the Hashemites ever since the Prophet Mohammad launched the message."

Peres visit confirmed

(Continued from page 1)

press will cross into Jordan through an opening in the barbed wire on the border. They will later hold negotiations and press conferences within the confines of a newly-erected compound of tents and prefabricated houses.

U.S. State Department spokeswoman Christine Kelly said Monday the U.S. had long encouraged "face to face sessions" between Jordan and Israel because they "provide for an authoritative exchange on the key issues" and help "generate confidence and momentum in the peace process."

Responding to news reports that King Hussein was ready to meet with Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin of Israel, Ms. Kelly noted that the King said last month in Washington that he hoped for meetings soon between high-level Jordanian and Israeli officials.

Ms. Kelly said that Secretary of State Christopher is expected to leave this weekend for talks in the Middle East. The secretary plans to continue on to Bangkok for post ministerial consultations with members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

Israel ready

(Continued from page 1)

base for their self-rule government for the Gaza Strip and Jericho.

Earlier this week, a minister of the autonomy government, Faisal Hussein, had met in East Jerusalem with a member of the Canadian government, sparking angry reactions by the Israelis.

Mr. Hussein is minister for Jerusalem affairs and runs East Jerusalem's Orient House.

Israel seizes awqaf lands near Jerusalem — ministry

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Tuesday reported that Israeli authorities recently seized a 36-dunum plot of awqaf-owned land as well as Bab Al Rahme Islamic Cemetery near Jerusalem.

Rafik Al Khatib, director of the department in charge of Al Aqsa Mosque, said Israel took these latest measures under the pretext that it is implementing a re-organisational plan within the boundaries of the holy city.

According to Mr. Khatib, Israel has been claiming that it confiscated the land to increase the green areas around the city and would not issue the awqaf office any permits to construct these plots.

As soon as they seized the

36 dunums, the Israeli authorities started transforming the area into a tourist site, said Mr. Khatib.

In addition, Israel seized parts of waqf land in Tour, Jahal Zeitun and Musrara districts in the holy city and opened roads in a manner aimed at changing the Islamic and Arab character of the city, he said.

Charging that such actions run contrary to the peace plans, Mr. Khatib appealed to the world community and the Arab and Islamic worlds to take measures aimed at halting Israel's illegal actions and ending its desecration of waqf sites in the city.

Meanwhile, the Department of Palestinian Affairs in Amman said in a report

Tuesday that Israel is continuing to seize Arab-owned homes in East Jerusalem.

The Israeli Jerusalem municipality has also seized Arab-owned lands around the city to set up Jewish settlements, it said.

In Watajeh village near Jerusalem, Israeli authorities seized 18 dunums of land and uprooted olive trees in the Abood area near Jerusalem.

The report said that the Israeli authorities last month detained 2,000 Palestinians, closed Dandis Printing Press and a food processing plant in Ramallah.

In the past month also, said the report, the Israeli forces shot and killed five Palestinians.

Road accident kills woman, injures 11 family members

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A road accident Monday evening took the life of one woman and injured 11 members of her family (all Saudi Arabian nationals) on their way home to Saudi Arabia, Civil Defence Department (CDD) reports said.

A CDD official told the Jordan Times that the woman's husband, Salem Omrani (42), was at the wheel of a four-wheel-drive vehicle and speeding. Mr. Omrani lost control of his vehicle, and it rolled over on a road in Al Disheh town, 75 kilometres east of Aqaba.

The deceased, Alia Salem Omrani (18), was killed on impact, the report said. The rest of the family was rushed to Princess Haya Military Hospital for treatment. Two of the vic-

tims, presumed to be family members, were still unidentified by CDD officials.

Hospital officials declined to release any information, but a CDD officer told the Jordan Times that most of the injured are expected to be discharged from hospital today.

Midwife arrested

A 32-year-old Irbid woman died Monday after giving birth to a boy with the help of a midwife, amid allegations that she had been wrongly administered an injection by the midwife, a police report said.

According to the report, the husband of the deceased told police that the midwife, identified only as H.M., delivered the baby and injected the mother

with an unknown substance and left the family's home.

Shortly after, the husband said, his wife started acting strangely. He said he telephoned the midwife, who advised him to take his wife to the hospital.

The husband rushed his wife, identified as S.A.H., to Princess Basma Hospital. But the woman was declared dead on arrival. Her body was transferred to Al Bashir Hospital in Amman for autopsy.

Police have arrested the midwife who told them only that she had assisted in a natural delivery, police said.

As of Tuesday evening, medical examinations were unable to determine if the mother died as a result of the injection, which was still not identified, or of internal bleeding. Police said they are investigating the case.

U.S. student delegation visits NHF

Mufti highlights foundation's philosophy

AMMAN (J.T.) — A 12-member delegation of students from different high schools in the United States Tuesday visited Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF) where they were received by In'am Mufti, advisor to Her Majesty Queen Noor for planning, development and NHF international relations, and senior NHF staff, said an NHF statement.

The visiting delegation first toured NHF's Jordan Design and Trade Centre (JDTC) to view its special selections of woolen rugs, embroidered home furnishings, ceramics, glassware, basketry, fashionable clothing, wrought iron furniture, personal accessories

and Islamic calligraphy items — all designed and produced by more than 3,000 Jordanian handicrafts men and women.

David O'Connor, the marketing advisor for the JDTC, told the delegation that JDTC seeks to raise the standards of Jordanian handicrafts production, improve marketing opportunities for crafts, create new jobs and increase women's involvement in production and decision making.

Mrs. Mufti gave the delegation a slide presentation on the NHF's projects and programmes implemented throughout Jordan stressing

on NHF's development philosophy which focus on the areas of: family and community development, women in development, child welfare, promotion of culture and heritage and advancement of education.

The group, which will end its 14-day visit to Jordan Friday, was escorted by Ronald Stockton, professor of political science at the University of Michigan-Dearborn.

The visit was within the framework of an invitation forwarded by the Arab Culture Association in Jordan to the Malcolm H. Kerr High School Scholars Programme in Arab and Islamic Studies.

Clinton: Haiti expulsion move validates military option

President Clinton said Tuesday an American military option to oust Haiti's military-backed regime validates his decision to consider a possible military intervention to restore democracy.

"We have taken the option we have taken," Mr. Clinton said. "We have taken the option we have taken."

Mr. Clinton said the military option was validated by the Haitian military's move to oust the elected government.

"We can always put them at the airport and give them sleeping bags," said a senior American official.

In Washington, the expulsion order was strongly criticised but government officials declined to say if it made a U.S. military invasion of the Caribbean country more likely.

U.S. Ambassador Madeleine Albright called for "quick and decisive" action by the international community to end the crisis in Haiti but she too would not say if this meant a U.S. invasion.

She said she hoped other states would follow U.S. initiatives that included cutting off airline traffic to Haiti and freezing assets of the military and its friends.

The Haitian regime said it was ordering the mission to leave because its presence was illegal and a threat to national security, a mission official said.

The move was immediately denounced by the U.N.'s top official on Haiti, former Argentine Foreign Minister Dante Caputo, who told reporters in New York. "I consider this an outrageous decision. This is a provocation," Mr. Caputo said.

Human rights groups have accused the military regime of increasingly using rape as a tool of political persecution.

Asked whether it was time for the United States to intervene militarily, Mr. Caputo said he had no comment.

In Washington, State Department spokeswoman Christine Shelly called the order a "serious escalation in the conflict between the regime and the international community."

She did not say if the order would lead to a U.S. invasion of Haiti to restore elected President Jean-Bertrand Aristide to power.

Haiti's army-backed government ordered the U.N.-led international human rights mission to leave the country Monday, a move denounced by the United States and branded an outrageous provocation by a top U.N. official.

The more than 100-member U.N.-Organisation of American States (OAS) mission has until 9 a.m. local time Wednesday to leave the country where virtually all flights have been cut off because of international sanctions.

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U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher said the decision by Haiti's military leaders to order the human rights mission to leave reflects an increasing pattern of repression.

"It's really part of the pattern of increasing repression by the Haitian regime," Mr. Christopher told reporters as he arrived in Berlin ahead of President Clinton.

The Clinton administration has urged the United Nations to mount a peacekeeping operation of perhaps 10,000 to help keep order should the military leave or be removed.

A U.N.-OAS mission official said the mission was told to leave "in order to avoid an incident or provocation." He said the Haitian police and army had been given a copy of the letter to ensure it would be enforced.

The U.N. General Assembly renewed the human rights workers' mandate Friday with warnings to the Caribbean nation's military rulers that it was time for them to give up the power they had seized in the bloody September 1991 coup.

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A Haitian checks his personal documents while waiting in line along with dozens of others outside a temporary U.S. office for refugees in downtown Port-au-Prince. Haitians who apply at U.S. offices inside Haiti, can be allowed to come to the U.S. if they are granted refugee status based on a well-founded fear of persecution (AFP photo).

Moscow hails G-7 summit results

MOSCOW (AP) — The Naples summit signaled a turning point in Russia's economic transformation and demonstrated new international respect for the country, a top cabinet official said Monday.

Economics Minister Alexander Shokhin echoed President Boris Yeltsin's comments on returning from Italy that the Group of Seven leaders had given Russia a strong vote of confidence.

"In the past, they were scared of us and aid was offered not only in exchange for reforms in order to prevent a destabilisation of the situation in Russia," Mr. Shokhin told journalists at the government headquarters in Moscow's White House.

"Now, they've begun to respect us as a full partner," he said.

Like Mr. Yeltsin, the economics minister was jubilant that Russia had been included for the first time as a full partner for at least the political talks during the weekend summit.

Mr. Shokhin repeatedly referred to the organisation as the Group of Eight — a

socialism and to open world markets to their products, Mr. Shokhin said.

"We were promised help not in the form of concrete billions of dollars but in terms of support for our initiatives," Mr. Shokhin said.

Russia also won some benefits for itself, as the United States agreed to ease a series of cold war-era trade restrictions. Mr. Shokhin said easier terms for selling Russian products in the United States could bring an additional \$3 billion annually in export revenues.

He acknowledged, however, that lifting the numerous U.S. restrictions will take time.

Mr. Yeltsin, speaking to state television Sunday night after returning from the summit, urged the United States and other nations to remove punitive trade measures, which he said were hurting the struggling Russian economy.

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Clinton plays sax at U.S. airbase

RAMSTEIN, Germany (R) — President Bill Clinton played the saxophone for American soldiers at a U.S. air base here Monday. His brief performance with a jazz band drew loud applause from many of the 7,000 armed forces and civilian staff who had listened to a speech from Clinton at the Ramstein Air Base. With 55,000 Americans, Ramstein has the largest U.S. community outside the United States.

Mr. Clinton resisted an invitation earlier to play a sax in front of German Chancellor Helmut Kohl's house in Oggersheim. Before Mr. Clinton entered Mr. Kohl's house for dinner, a woman neighbour briefly played a saxophone decorated with a small American flag and handed it to him for an impromptu performance. But Mr. Clinton kept the flag and handed back the instrument. Mr. Clinton played the sax in Fragne and Moscow on a European tour in January. But he let down his Polish fans in Warsaw last week and had a small army of journalists scurrying around Bonn Sunday evening in the vain hope of catching him blowing a few notes.

Youths held after rape victim survives burning

STRASBOURG, France (AFP) — Two men are being held by police after a 25-year-old nurse was raped and set on fire, judicial officials said Monday. The unidentified men, born in France of Turkish parents, are aged around 25. The victim, who was not named, had described her attackers to police while in hospital. Police were looking for a third man. Sources close to the inquiry said one of those held was the brother of a former boyfriend of the victim, and the attack may be a case of settling a culture clash score. The woman, who was fighting for her life in hospital Monday with 60 per cent burns, was abducted and raped by three men Friday near Strasbourg in northeastern France. They tied her up, drove her 300 kilometres to a forest, poured petrol over her and set her alight before running away, police said. She survived by dragging herself to an isolated farmhouse and raising the alarm Saturday morning. "Her skin was so red I thought she was dressed," the farmer told a local newspaper. "She was conscious and complained little," he added.

Japanese student tells of friends' violent deaths

LONG BEACH, Calif. (R) — A Japanese student testified that he saw a man threatening his two friends seconds before they were both shot dead in a double murder that sparked an international outcry on both sides of the Pacific Ocean.

Miyake, 21, identified Raymond Butler as the man who demanded car keys from Takuma Ito and Go Matsura, two 19-year-old students who had come to America to pursue their dream of becoming filmmakers. Butler, 19, has pleaded not guilty to the March 25 murders. He also has pleaded not guilty to two counts of armed robbery and two counts of car theft. He faces the death penalty if convicted because of a special circumstance allegation that he committed multiple murders. A second defendant, Alberto Raygoza, 20, earlier pleaded no contest to receiving stolen property and was to be sentenced to 32 months in prison July 29, according to prosecutors. Ito and Matsura were shot in the back of the head in a supermarket parking lot. The suspects fled in Ito's Honda Civic, which was found the next day. Miyake, giving evidence at a preliminary hearing in Long Beach Municipal Court to determine if there is enough suspicion for Butler to stand trial, said he saw the defendant struggling with Ito outside a supermarket. Miyake said he had a meal with the two students and a female student. The victims were in one car and Miyake and the female were in another. Miyake and his friend drove to the front of the store where the female ran in to phone police. Then, Miyake said, he heard three gun shots and saw Ito's car being driven away. He found his friends had been shot to death, he said.

Protestants vow to resist a united Ireland

Protestants in Northern Ireland pledged to resist all attempts to bring the island into a Catholic-dominated united Ireland.

Marches were held in the British-ruled north to commemorate military victories over the Irish Republic in 1921 and 1922. They declared they would break their ties with the British crown to ensure that Ireland remains Protestant.

The ceremonies were held to commemorate King William of Orange's 1690 victory over the Catholic King James II at the Battle of the Boyne, which is rich in symbolism and Protestant folklore.

The marchers passed their traditional resolution affirming "devotion and loyalty" to Queen Elizabeth but attacked the British government's handling of Northern Ireland's political problems.

They accused Britain of allowing the government of the Irish Republic to "interfere" in the internal affairs of Northern Ireland and denounced Britain for having had contacts last year with Sinn Fein, the political wing of the IRA.

"We will not become citizens of a united Ireland. There are no political pressures strong enough to propel us in that direction. There are no terrorist pressures sufficient to break our wills," the Orangemen said.

One of the resolutions declared: "As (pro-British) unionists we have to fight our own battles against the forces ranged against us. We cannot depend on the (British) government to defend or to secure our status in the United Kingdom. Unionist unity is essential to that task."

They said an internal Northern Ireland solution must be achieved peacefully by the 60 per cent Protestant and 40 per cent Catholic communities in the region that has a population of 1.5 million.

As part of "Orange Day" ceremonies, bonfires were lit across the province as midnight approached Monday night.

A British Army helicopter was forced down in a football field Tuesday when it was hit by a mortar shell after lifting off from the Newtownhamilton Military Base in South Armagh, police said.

The Puma helicopter was taking off from the heavily fortified joint army and police base in South Armagh near the border with the Irish Republic when the mortar was fired, police said.

Police and army spokesmen said there were no reported injuries among the Puma's occupants, and that the extent of the damage to the aircraft was not determined.

They said there was no immediate claim for the attack.

Last March the Irish Republican Army (IRA) shot down an army Lynx helicopter with a mortar as it was going in to land a few miles away at the Crossmaglen base.

The three crewmen were injured — one seriously — when the aircraft crashed-landed from a height of 35 metres (100 feet) and burst into flames.

Tuesday's attack was the 13th in which a helicopter was been hit, the fourth time one was brought down.

Until recently the IRA had used heavy calibre machine-guns to attack British military aircraft.

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Bangladesh MPs disavow Nasrin support

DHAKA (R) — The secretary-general of the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) has assured parliament the government did not support feminist writer Taslima Nasrin, in hiding from government arrest and Islamic death threats.

"The government never supported any activities against religion, nor would it support the woman called Taslima Nasrin, who has uttered filthy words against Islam and the Koran," Abdus Salam Talukder told parliament on Monday night.

"She is doing this deliberately and the nation will not tolerate it," he said before parliament wound up its budget session amid a continuing boycott by opposition members.

The feminist writer came up for discussion in parliament Monday when one opposition member, Moulana Obaidul Haq from the Islami Oikya Jote, burst into the assembly, saying he wanted to draw attention to the country's "worst problem."

He criticised the government for failing to arrest Nasrin and try her for what Islamic fundamentalists claim was her blasphemy of Islam.

"She is a renegade who outraged Islam and has been involved in anti-state activities. It is hard to believe that the government does not know where she is," Mr. Haq said to cheers from BNP members, parliament officials said.

Mr. Haq broke ranks with other opposition members who have boycotted parliament since February.

Khmer Rouge 'locked out of peace process'

PHNOM PENH (R) — Cambodia's first prime minister said on Tuesday the outlawed Khmer Rouge guerrilla faction had locked itself out of the country's peace process by declaring a rebel government.

"The announcement of a so-called provisional government is contrary to the constitution — they've absolutely placed themselves outside the constitution," Prince Norodom Ranariddh said on his return to Phnom Penh from a private visit to Hong Kong.

The Khmer Rouge said Monday it had set up a provisional government based in northern Preah Vihear province.

Last week, parliament passed legislation outlawing the faction, but the government said this did not necessarily close the door on a resumption of peace talks.

But Prince Ranariddh said Tuesday that the Khmer Rouge's nominal leader, Khien Samphan, had locked the door on talks by announcing a provisional government.

"There won't be any government to support them — not at all and... in my opinion, even if our law leaves the door open for negotiation, he (Samphan) locked the door himself," Prince Ranariddh said.

The law banning the Khmer Rouge provides for up to 30 years' jail for acts of secession or incitement to take up arms.

The Khmer Rouge, responsible for the deaths of one million Cambodians in its bloody reign from 1975 to 1979, continues to wage a low-level guerrilla war to back its demands for a role in government.

A U.N. official familiar with Cambodian defence issues agreed with the government that the Khmer Rouge's provisional government amounted to a hollow challenge.

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Neo-Nazis plot to kill Winnie Mandela — paper

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Neo-Nazis are plotting to assassinate President Nelson Mandela's estranged wife Winnie, a South African newspaper reported Tuesday.

"It is no secret that Mrs. Mandela is next on the hit-list of the AWP (Afrikaner Resistance Movement) or other agents unknown to the security unit," the Sowetan quoted Winnie Mandela's bodyguards as saying in a statement.

The Neo-Nazi AWP rejected the accusations.

"It is absolutely rubbish — she just wants more bodyguards so she can spend more of the taxpayers' money and put them up at expensive hotels in Cape Town," said AWP spokesman Fred Rundle.

"This is not the first time..." Mr. Rundle told Reuters.

Last month Mrs. Mandela said the new national unity government led by her husband had offered her security when she was appointed deputy minister of arts, culture, science and technology.

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U.S., French agree to equalise AIDS test royalties

WASHINGTON (R) — U.S. and French health researchers have attempted to end a long feud over AIDS research by announcing a more equal split of royalties from a test to detect the deadly disease.

The U.S. National Institutes of Health (NIH) announced a new distribution plan that will give the French more money. Under a 1987 agreement, Americans have collected \$6 million more than the French.

The new accord is designed to put to rest a feud between French and U.S. health researchers that first erupted in the 1980s over who discovered the AIDS virus and then continued over dividing proceeds from the sale of AIDS testing kits.

NIH Director Harold Varmus announced the agreement after a meeting of the French and American AIDS Foundation, a bilateral group that oversees the royalties, and said the group was unanimous in approving the settlement.

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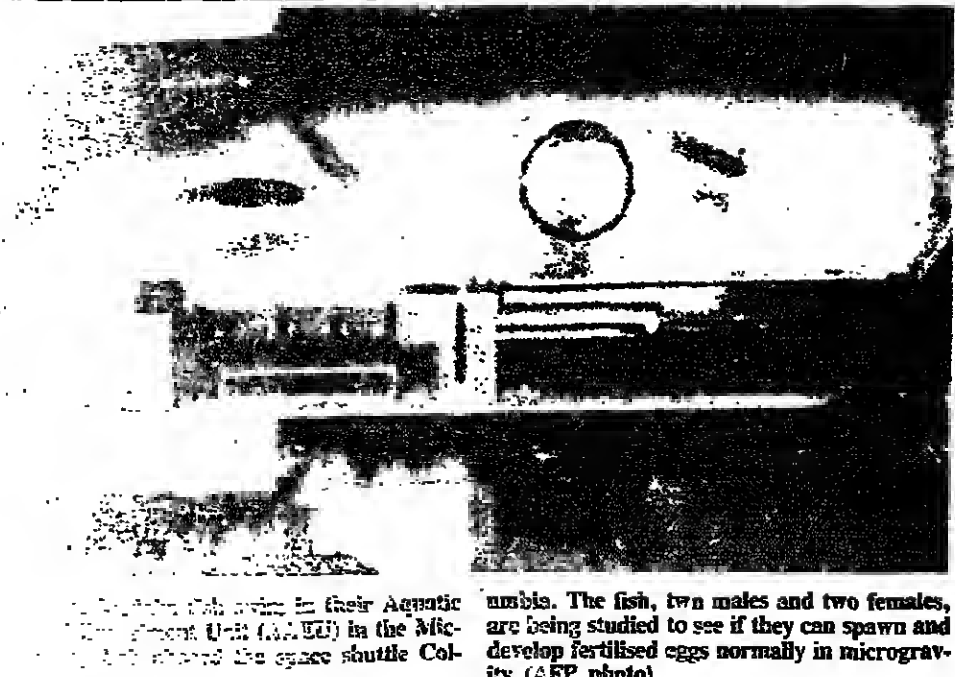
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Astronaut growing in orbit now too tall

WASHINGTON (R) — NASA might have to rethink its height requirements for astronauts.

Astronaut commander Ellison S. Onizuka is growing in orbit — and he now exceeds NASA's height limit for astronauts.

Onizuka started the two-week laboratory mission Friday at 6 feet 3 inches (1.9 metres).

On Monday, he topped 6 feet 4 inches (1.93 metres), the limit for someone on a space shuttle.

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كندا في لاس



Soldiers of the Rwandan army watch at the entrance of the city of Kivumu in west Rwanda the arrival of hundreds of

refugees who flee battles only two kilometres from Kivumu (AFP photo)

U.N. announces Bosnia truce extension

SARAJEVO (R) — Bosnia's Muslim-led government and the United Nations agreed Tuesday to extend a much-violated truce for a month after it expired at the weekend.

The agreement was announced by U.N. special envoy Yasushi Akashi after talks in Sarajevo with Bosnian government leaders. The Bosnian Serbs have already indicated they will support the truce extension.

The truce accord comes as both sides are under increasing pressure to accept the latest international peace plan to end Bosnia's 27-month-old war.

U.S. mediator Charles Redman arrived in Sarajevo and said the international community expected a clear "yes" to the peace plan or it would move swiftly to consideration of a "carrot and stick" programme to bring the rival factions into line.

British and French foreign ministers were beginning a mission to the former Yugoslavia aimed at persuading the Bosnian Serbs, who would have to cede the most territory, to accept the "last chance" peace proposal. Diplomats and United Na-

tions officials believe, however, that both sides are likely to hedge their response to the peace plan in the interests of prolonging negotiations while seeking to consolidate or expand their land holdings.

"Given the diplomatic pressures building, neither side can afford to be seen to say 'no' to the peace plan," said a U.N. official in Sarajevo who asked not to be named. "Each side in its own way will say 'yes' and mean 'no'."

The United Nations meanwhile reported continued fighting between Serbs and Muslims in north central Bosnia — although at a slightly reduced intensity — together with further clashes in the contested northwestern Bihac enclave.

The current, tattered truce was agreed in Geneva on June 8 and came into force on June 10, since when it has been repeatedly violated by Bosnian Muslim and Serb forces.

The extension, agreed Tuesday by the Muslim-led Bosnian government and the parallel Muslim-Croat federation, and already verbally backed by the Serbs, expires on Aug. 10.

"I am happy to announce that the government of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina and the Federation of Bosnia-Herzegovina have agreed to extend the June 8 Geneva agreement on a cessation of offensive and hostile actions for another month," Mr. Akashi told reporters.

Mr. Akashi's avoidance of the term ceasefire reflects U.N. acceptance that even though a truce is agreed, the shooting is not expected to stop entirely.

The truce was intended to pave the way for an overall settlement to the Bosnian war, which both sides are now under strong pressure from the international community to accept.

In Sarajevo, Mr. Redman said he expected Serbs and Muslims to reply to the peace plan on July 20.

And if they failed to back the plan, ministers of the "contact group" — the U.S., Russia, France, Germany and Britain — would weigh measures to ensure compliance.

"We have asked for clear answers on July 20," Mr. Redman told reporters. "We certainly hope there will be

no 'huts'.

"If there are, we will analyse them and we will do that very quickly so the ministers can meet before the end of the month."

"We expect the ministers will be prepared to address the question of incentives and disincentives if the answer is anything other than a 'yes'."

The international community has billed the latest plan, which divides the country roughly in half between the Serbs and the Muslim-Croat federation, as a last chance for peace.

The Bosnian Muslims have already indicated they will endorse it, while the Serbs, who face tougher sanctions if they refuse it, have been less enthusiastic despite public pressure from their backers in Belgrade.

Diplomats worry the Bosnian government may however be talking peace while its army is preparing for more war.

And observers suspect the Bosnian Serbs are betting the major powers are so hungry for a peace deal and so divided among themselves they will be willing to continue talking so long as they do not mount any major offensive.

Rebels welcome gradual French withdrawal from Rwanda

KIGALI (R) — Rebels welcomed Tuesday a gradual pullout of French troops from western Rwanda but warned Paris against protecting officials accused of plotting massacres in which more than 500,000 people are believed to have died.

As Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF) forces thrust into the government-held west, a senior rebel official said the RPF would not call a unilateral ceasefire until it was sure the killings were over.

"If the French stick to their mandate of ensuring humanitarian relief, then we have nothing against a gradual withdrawal," said Major Wilson Rutayisire, RPF commissioner of information.

French Prime Minister Edouard Balladur told the United Nations Monday that France had fulfilled its mission in Rwanda and it was time for the U.N. to send troops to head off a fresh crisis.

But Mr. Balladur and Foreign Minister Alain Juppe no longer insisted that all French troops would leave by July 31. Mr. Juppe said there would be a "progressive" withdrawal as U.N. forces arrived.

Maj. Rutayisire told reporters in the capital Kigali that the 2,500 French troops could stay as long as they wanted if they abided by the humanitarian mandate for Operation Turquoise, as France's mission in Rwanda is known.

"But if they are here to protect criminals, those people who masterminded the genocide, then even a single day is too long."

French commander Brigadier-General Jean-Claude Lafourcade said Monday that if the interim Rwandan government now holed up on the border with Zaire fled to French operation areas, "we would allow them in as mere refugees."

He said it would be up to an international inquiry to decide who was responsible

for the massacres, in which aid officials estimate more than half a million people have died since early April — mostly members of the Tutsi minority and Hutu government opponents.

The bloodletting followed the death of President Juvenal Habyarimana, killed in a rocket attack on his plane on April 6 along with the president of neighbouring Burundi as they returned to Rwanda from regional peace talks in Tanzania. Both presidents were members of the Hutu tribe.

RPF forces were reported Monday to be only two kilometres from the garrison town of Ruhengeri and set to push for Gisenyi, where the self-declared government has taken refuge in a luxury hotel near the border with eastern Zaire.

Maj. Rutayisire said more than 1,000 people were fleeing daily from camps in French-protected havens in the southwest, complaining of a lack of food, medicine and militiamen operating in the area.

France says that almost a million refugees, most of them Hutus, are under the protection of French and Senegalese troops in the southwest, where most of the massacres have stopped.

Jacques Buhizigara, an RPF political bureau member, said a new government expected to be set up shortly would call a ceasefire only when the rebels were satisfied that the killing was over.

"We cannot end the war until we know all civilians are safe," Mr. Buhizigara, designated deputy prime minister in the new government, told Reuters. "At present we cannot say they are."

He said the government, its army and extremist Hutu militias killed indiscriminately and still controlled parts of Rwanda.

Mr. Buhizigara said the RPF refused to talk to anyone implicated in massacre, including a faction of senior

army officers who distanced themselves from the interim government at the weekend.

"These officers were part of the crisis committee set up after Mr. Habyarimana's death. They were part of the group responsible for the massacres," the rebel official said.

He confirmed that a national unity government headed by Faustin Twagiramungu would be formed as soon as possible after Mr. Twagiramungu, the prime minister designate, arrived in Rwanda Thursday from Belgium.

He said ending the tribal conflict that sparked civil war and mass slaughter would be high on the new government's agenda.

"To end the ethnic conflict we must do two things: rid the country of this dictatorship and re-educate the

population.

"To achieve the latter we will start by getting rid of the ethnicity on the national identity card and concentrate the minds of the people on rediscovering their national unity," he said.

Identity cards in Rwanda include the tribe of the bearer and were the main means used by troops and militiamen to determine who would be butchered as a Tutsi or survive as a Hutu.

In Bujumbura, Burundi's Constitutional Court has extended Interim President Sylvestre Ntanzunganya's term for three months while parties struggle to agree on a new head of state.

The court agreed Monday to the extension requested by Mr. Ntanzunganya before his three-month term expired Tuesday.



A Rwandan refugee woman carries her starving child at the refugee camp of Kivumu in the west of Rwanda, in the French protection zone (AFP photo)

Court frees Germany for world military role

KARLSRUHE, Germany (R) — Germany shook off self-imposed military fetters adopted after World War II when the Supreme Court ruled Tuesday that Bonn could join international armed missions.

The judges ended a row in Bonn over united Germany's new world role by saying the 1949 constitution did not stop its troops joining United Nations peacekeeping or combat missions.

"Peace forces and their task of securing peace are part of the United Nations' system of collective security as it has developed through the practical application of the U.N. charter which the Federal Republic of Germany joined in 1973," the eight-judge panel ruled.

At the same time, the constitutional Court said Chancellor Helmut Kohl's government had infringed the rights of parliament by not consulting it before sending troops to help monitor U.N.-imposed sanctions and a no-fly zone in former Yugoslavia, and to join peacekeepers in Somalia.

It made clear that in future parliament would have to approve such missions albeit by a simple majority.

Government leaders, who have said future missions will only be undertaken with U.N. allies and not alone, said after the ruling Germany was not interested in playing "world policeman."

"Germany will never pursue an interventionist policy. Our foreign and security policy will not be militarised, you can be sure of that," Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel told reporters after attending the ruling.

Asked if Bonn would now send troops to Rwanda to back forces from close ally France who have set up safe areas for civil war refugees, Mr. Kinkel said: "I don't see that at the moment."

Defence Minister Volker Ruehe, who also attended the ruling, added: "We are not discussing any individual cases right now."

Mr. Kohl welcomed the decision, which gave the final green light for his drive since unification in 1990 to take a wider global role after four decades of a purely defensive role in NATO.



Ukraine's newly elected President Leonid Kuchma (centre) speaks to reporters just after his arrival in Kiev following the election (AFP photo)

New Ukraine, Belarus presidents look to ties with Russia to save economy

MOSCOW (AFP) — The neighbouring Slav republics of Belarus and Ukraine will try to revive their faltering independent economies by knitting closer ties with Russia.

In 1991, the three Slavic republics laid the groundwork for the Commonwealth of Independent States, sealing the fate of the Soviet Union, but their union fell apart amid national independence moves.

Both Ukraine and Belarus have since come to realise that given the extent of the economic crisis they could no longer ignore their powerful neighbour, Russia, knowing that Moscow would not make any trade concessions without some gain in political influence.

Leonid Kuchma, the new Ukrainian president, said Monday that the Ukraine had no choice but to abandon "self-imposed isolation" and "restore the mutual economic advantages which existed between the former Soviet republics, notably Russia."

Alexander Lukashenko, the new Belarus president, promised his electorate to dig the country out of the economic abyss by restoring the principles of the Soviet Union. "His fame is due in part to the fact that he has always been opposed, even in 1991, to the death of the Soviet Union," said a Russian specialist.

Ukrainian voters had an alternative of voting for the outgoing President Leonid

Kravchuk "and be led by the West," or choosing Mr. Kuchma "and renew ties with Russia," the daily Kommersant wrote Tuesday.

But financial aid from the West is conditioned by economic success and is too weak to counterbalance the damaging effects of dependence on Moscow.

Since gaining political independence, the former Soviet republics have come to the bitter realisation that economic independence is not viable and that it will take longer than one generation to rationalise the production structures inherited from the centralised Soviet system.

Belarus, formerly Byelorussia, was the "light industry workshop" of the Soviet Union, manufacturing watches and with a large computer equipment manufacturing centre. The small republic was the only supplier of the Soviet Union's quarry skips and had a solid agricultural base. But it only had one major client, the Soviet Union, and no natural resources save potassium.

Ukraine, known as the bread basket of the Soviet Union, had strong heavy industry. But its economy is unbalanced between east and west, it depends for its energy on Moscow and its processing industry is inefficient.

The euphoria of 1991 quickly gave way to the impression we were falling into a bottomless pit," outgoing Belarus Prime Minister Vachaslav Kebich said recently.

Today, the economy of both countries is semi-paralysed, manufacturing has collapsed and is incapable of clawing its way up to meet international quality standards, so it cannot find any markets and hyperinflation is just round the corner.

Average salaries are around \$15 a month, while prices are often level with Western ones.

In Ukraine, Mr. Kuchma frequently says that the economy has priority over politics.

He does not mean that the Soviet Union should be resurrected but that real economic integration with the rest of the Commonwealth of Independent States should be aimed for. Experts say this means integration... dominated by Russia.

In Belarus, Mr. Lukashenko's victory opens "new outlooks" for "wide-ranging negotiations" in the framework of economic integration of the two republics, said Marc Umov, political adviser to Russian President Boris Yeltsin quoted by Interfax Tuesday.

But Moscow would only approve the integration if it was total.

Western diplomats and analysts reacted cautiously to Mr. Kuchma's victory, but voiced concern over whether the new leader would seek to implement serious economic reforms or would turn towards Russia for economic aid.

Clinton pledges U.S. eternal support for Germany

BERLIN (AFP) — U.S. President Bill Clinton pledged to the people of reunited Germany and its capital Berlin Tuesday that America stands by their side and will always do so.

In a powerful speech of homage to the courage of the citizens of Berlin who withstood 40 years of cold war, Mr. Clinton declared: "You have proved that no wall can ever contain the mighty power of freedom."

To an applauding crowd of about 40,000 people he declared in German and English: "America is on your side, now and forever."

He gave the speech in front of the Brandenburg Gate after walking through the arch, which used to mark the division of the city and has now come to symbolise German unity.

The U.S. president recalled the decades of resistance against Stalinist oppression, from those who threw stones at tanks in the Berlin workers' uprising of June 17 1953, up to the movement in the streets of Leipzig of 1989.

"You found the courage to endure, to resist, to tear down the walls," he said, flanked by his wife Hillary, Chancellor Helmut Kohl and Mr. Kohl's wife Hannelore who accompanied him in a foursome on a walk to the gate.

"Now you must find a new courage civil," he told Berliners. "The courage to build. The Berlin Wall is gone. Now our generation must decide: What will we build in its place?"

"Standing here today, we can see the answer," Mr. Clinton said, presenting a Europe of free independent nations living in democracy, a Europe of free market reforms where children were raised in peace and hope.

But the president also warned that "the work of freedom is not easy," and said it required discipline, responsibility, the ability to withstand failure, and also vigilance.

"Here in Germany, in the United States and throughout the entire world, we must reject those who would divide us with scolding words



German Chancellor Helmut Kohl (right) President Bill Clinton looks on (centre) during an official welcoming ceremony (AFP photo)

'Sit-at-home' order strike heeded in Nigeria

Lagos (AFP) — Strike action aimed at pressuring the military government to release Nigeria's detained pro-democracy leader intensified Tuesday as a "sit-at-home" order issued by a Nigerian trade union was apparently well heeded.

The stay-at-home call issued by the Lagos branch of the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) came as a fuel distribution strike which has paralysed supplies went into its eighth day.

The Labour Congress gave the order to pressure the military into releasing jailed

pro-democracy leader Chief Moshood Abiola and other political detainees.

The NLC also wants media organisations shut last month to re-open and to force the government to enter into negotiations with pro-democracy associations.

Mr. Abiola, who has been jailed since last month, was the apparent winner of the June 12, 1993 presidential election which was annulled by the military government on grounds of fraud.

Only a handful of communal taxis were seen Tuesday morning on Lagos roads

while the buses which are the main means of transport in the city of about six million people were few and far between because of fuel scarcity, caused by the strike by the powerful oil and gas union NUPENG.

Most private, government offices and diplomatic missions visited by AFP were empty as staff were either at home or stranded at bus stops.

The few available buses were charging up to four times the normal fare.

Only a few flights had taken off at the domestic

wing of the Murtala Muhamad Airport here Tuesday morning because of a shortage of aviation fuel.

Passenger turn-out at the airport was equally very low, which had forced some airlines to begin rescheduling their flight times, he added.

The scarcity of fuel, which has practically paralysed Lagos and other areas of the country, is due to a strike by NUPENG (National Union of Petroleum and Natural Gas Workers) which began last Monday to press the military government to release Mr. Abiola.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975.

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No apologies on this side

THE MEDIA uproar about Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres' impending visit to Jordan to take part in the trilateral meeting on July 20 or July 22 is probably overblown given the fact that Amman and the rest of the Arab parties have engaged the Israeli side in face-to-face talks ever since the Madrid conference nearly three years ago. The arrival into the Kingdom of an Israeli delegation was to be expected in the wake of the agreement between the two sides to deal head on with their pressing bilateral disputes. That is also why the announcement by His Majesty King Hussein that he is willing to meet with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin should be also put in proper perspective as in keeping with the general framework of peace negotiations between the two countries.

There is no turning back from the decision to seek a peaceful resolution of the conflict with Israel. It would be illogical to sue for peace with Israel while pretending that direct encounters on the highest possible levels are not acceptable or anathema to national interest. The main point here is not whether an Arab statesman meets his Israeli counterpart; rather the issue is what actually transpires from such talks. As long as the outcome of peace negotiations is honourable and in conformity with public interest there can be no room for hiding from the necessity of dealing with the enemy in the most direct manner.

The Palestinian side has been engaging Israeli officials out in the open for many years already and have scored results that appear to be to their satisfaction. The Syrian side as well has sat face to face with the Israeli side since October 1991 although without any solid results yet. We in Jordan have a duty towards ourselves to explore all avenues for peaceful resolution of the disputes between us and the Israeli side. We have certain territorial and water rights that we shall insist on no matter how long it would take to attain these national objectives. We have already made an agreement with Israel on fundamentals as expressed in the declaration of principles signed by both parties. These preliminary accords call for amplifications that would render such early agreements more sensible. There is no sure sign yet that the impending Jordanian-Israeli peace talks would produce definitive consequences. That is why what lies ahead will be hard bargaining on both sides. We can count on our negotiating team, however, to persevere in insisting on all our national rights. They have proven themselves on earlier occasions and they will not fail us this time around.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I ARABIC daily Tuesday demanded that China, Russia and France lead the efforts at the United Nations to end the embargo on Iraq now that it has implemented all U.N. Security Council resolutions. The daily said that the U.N. inspection teams have completed their tasks of destroying Iraq's capabilities to make nuclear weapons and have installed cameras to monitor any violations, and, in addition, the Iraqis have complied with the other resolutions leaving no justification for the continued sanctions. France, China and Russia, which hold permanent seats at the Security Council, have been advocating the idea of ending the sanctions and the time has come for them to translate their words into deeds and help end the sufferings of the Iraqi people, demanded the daily. These three nations are also required to prove to the world that they are not merely implementing American orders and are keen on enabling the United Nations to exercise its free role in handling world issues, added the paper. It said that continued sanctions on the Iraqi people are bound to bring about very serious consequences to the whole Middle East area.

Tareq Masarweh, a columnist in Al Ra'i, expressed the view that the Arabs are in no position to reject or accept peace plans offered them by others. Despite the fact that the Arabs deep down refuse the idea of something imposed on them, they have very little room for manoeuvre, said the writer. The Arabs have been rendered weak because the Arab League proved to be impotent over the past decades, said the writer. Saying that the Arab World has had the chance in the past five decades to rise and achieve just and permanent peace, he said the Arabs failed to achieve that. The writer said that the Arabs have only themselves to blame for the present disarray in their ranks and have to accept what is offered them rather than wait for a worse offer.



U.N. meeting debates Palestinian problem, peace, democracy in Mideast

ELSNORE, Denmark — A new era in which a comprehensive peace is within sight in the Middle East set the agenda for a three-day International Encounter for Journalists on the Question of Palestine, which ended here recently.

The meeting brought together a panel of prominent Arabs, Israelis and Middle East experts to exchange views with a group of senior international media representatives on the issues facing the Palestinian and Israeli peoples in their attempts to secure lasting peace in the region. Some 130 people, including 26 members of the diplomatic corps, attended the meeting.

The theme of the encounter — the fourth in a series mandated by the General Assembly — was "Prerequisites to Peace in the Middle East". The series of encounters are aimed at promoting dialogue between the two sides in the Middle East conflict. Israeli security concerns, the process of democratisation and economic strategy for the Palestinian self-rule areas were some of the issues discussed at the Elnore encounter.

In concluding remarks, Under Secretary-General Vladimir Petrovsky, director-general of the United Nations office at Geneva, who acted as moderator for the meeting, said peace was a partnership which required trust, and was based on security. "The security which I wish to underscore here describes a more comprehensive state of the human condition. The secretary-general has affirmed that this means, at the very least, freedom from hunger, torture, fear and disease."

It should be clear that security itself was bound up with development in all its aspects, he said. In his "Agenda for Development", Secretary-General Boutros Ghali had stated that development was a prerequisite for peace and at the same time had pointed out that peace was the foundation of development. "In other words, there is no escaping the dual nature of each condition," Mr. Petrovsky added.

Democracy was an essential foundation for security and the best guarantee for peace, he continued, it was also a prime United Nations concern, which implied not just elections, but the creation and strengthening of institutions which encouraged and sustained the expression of a people's needs and demands. Pointing out that 1995 would mark the 50th anniversary of the United Nations and would also be a year dedicated to world tolerance, he said, "what truly offends the conscience of humankind is bigotry and aggressive nationalism."

The encounter was opened June 15 by Niels Helveg Petersen, minister for foreign affairs of Denmark, who said in his opening address that peace was a genuine prospect in the Middle East. Citing the European Union's decision to support the Middle East peace process through joint action, he said one of the important elements of that

'Israel cannot expect security as long as it remains in occupation'

support would be assistance with the preparation and monitoring of the forthcoming elections.

The encounter was organised by the United Nations Department of Public Information (DPI) and was hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark. The coordinator and secretary was Mustapha Thili, chief of the Palestine and Decolonisation Section of the DPI.

The panelists were Samir Abdallah, chief of the Department of Economic Policies and Project Selection, Palestinian Economic Council for Development and Reconstruction; Haider Abdul Shafi, president of the Red Crescent Society in Gaza; M. Nasser Al Kidwa, permanent observer for Palestine to the United Nations; Abdullah Boubabb, adviser to the World Bank's Vice-President for the Middle East and North Africa Region; Helle Degen, Denmark's minister for cooperation and development, who also gave the keynote address on the second day of the encounter.

Other panelists were Mustafa B. Hamameh, director, Centre for Strategic Studies, University of Jordan; Mark Heller, senior research associate, Jaffee Centre for Strategic Studies, Tel Aviv; Hossni Katz, member of the Israeli Knesset; Richard Murphy, senior fellow of New York City's Middle East Council on Foreign Relations; Ron Pundik, senior fellow, Truman Institute for the Advancement of Peace, Tel Aviv; William Quandt, senior fellow, the Brookings Institution, Washington D.C.; Ghassan Salameh, senior fellow, Centre National de Recherches Scientifiques, Paris (Lebanon); Emmanuel Sharon, director of the Hapagim Bank, Tel Aviv; Mohammad Shiyab, director of International Studies, Royal Scientific Society; and Nikolai Tikhomirov, department head of the Russian Foreign Ministry's Directorate of Middle East and North Africa.

Statements

In a discussion on security, Dr. Abdul Shafi said there could be no peace without security. He said the Zionist claim over Palestine, and the decision to implement that claim by force, was the main reason for the absence of peace in the Middle East region. "Israel cannot expect security as long as it remains in occupation," he said.

Dr. Shiyab agreed, saying that Israel's military might, aggressive image and population transfer policies were reasons for concern. Refugees and displaced persons' issues were directly related to Jordan's

demographic security, creating unprecedented socio-economic effects, he added.

From the Israeli perspective, two levels of security were identified as important to the present situation by Mr. Heller: the conventional military issue — the question of relations between forces and the possibility of the use of territory for offensive military purposes; and the issue of terrorism.

"Safety mechanisms need to be built into peace agreements to ensure against any backtracking," Mr. Heller said. Those mechanisms could be found under the general heading of arms control and confidence-building measures, but particularly by prohibiting the military use, by any other party, of territory from which Israel withdraws. A functioning Palestinian administration and security authority would always be in a position to do a better job of counter terrorism than would an Israeli military presence in the area, he added.

Both Mr. Shiyab and Mr. Heller agreed that in the broader regional context, a mechanism was needed to address the major strategic issues facing the region as a whole. Some important regional actors were as yet uninvolved, including Syria, Iraq and Iran.

Addressing the final session of the encounter devoted to the process of democratisation, Dr. Abdul Shafi said that the Palestinians were committed to the objectives of democracy and insisted on conducting elections in the territories as soon as possible. However, complications might arise because of the stipulation in the 1993 Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements that elections be held on the basis of an Israeli-Palestinian agreement. "This is strictly a Palestinian issue," he said. If the Israelis also stuck to their present position on the non-participation of Palestinians living in East Jerusalem in free elections, they would not only be violating the terms of the declaration and delaying the process, but also indicating that the fate of Jerusalem was already established.

Mr. Salameh agreed that the most urgent and crucial issue was that elections be held. Refuting the argument that elections at the present stage would be a de facto referendum on settlement provisions which possibly would lead to the election of extremists, he said, "If elections are not held, the extremists will be gaining power, not losing it... Wherever Islamists have participated in the electoral process in the Arab World, they have

not, except in one or two cases, tried to change the rules of the game after the fact", he added.

Dr. Hamameh said he failed to see a direct link between the peace process and democratisation. The indirect link was certainly there and would help the elected authority deal with questions such as taxation and accountability of finance. Citing the experience of Jordan and other Arab countries, he said there was no guarantee that the peace process, like the democratisation process before it in the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s, would automatically lead to democratisation in the Middle East as a whole.

Over the past 10 to 15 years, the Palestinian-Israeli conflict had decreased in importance for many Arab states. Dr. Hamameh went on, "Any settlement, thereafter, between these two actors will not automatically affect the political situation in all other Arab countries equally because of varying degrees of initial involvement." Many Arab countries had even used the Israeli-Palestinian conflict as a pretext for the militarisation of their own systems. Democracy was usually affected by domestic issues, rather than regional factors. "The Palestinian conflict with Israel, therefore, would be only one factor among many other political, social, economic and other questions affecting the democratisation of Palestinian society."

Dr. Hamameh concluded by saying that "a precondition for any settlement is for Israel to admit its historic responsibility towards the Palestinian people, the same way the German people have admitted their historic responsibility towards the Jews."

In summing up, Mr. Quandt said that over the course of the three-day encounter, he had heard almost none of the recriminations or deep animosities that until recently had come to be expected. "There has been a change of tone — not accidental — reflecting that we have witnessed a discussion between adversaries who take each other seriously."

Sounding a note of caution, Mr. Quandt said that certain issues were still outstanding and that there was a set of challenges that the Palestinians must face. "The Palestinians have historical and political experience, but if it turns out that the Gaza-Jericho agreement is just a first step towards self-government in the entire West Bank and Gaza, they will be entering a new era."

On the final status issue, Mr. Quandt said it was "something of a myth" to think it could wait for two years. The issues involved were integrally linked to the present. The peace-making process should be continuous. "Enemies of the process will take advantage of any lull," he warned. The forthcoming elections would matter a great deal. They marked the beginning of building national institutions. "The Palestinians will prove to be the pace-setters of democratisation in the Arab World," he added.

Ensuring safety on the road

By John Dales

THE RECENT tragic accident on a road outside Irbid came only two days after the Jordan Times (June 25) had again published an editorial about the pressing need to tackle road safety problems in the Kingdom. Such a graphic reminder that these problems persist must now lead to a concerted attempt by all concerned to bring about a solution. If it does not, then the 31(?) who were killed at Muthallath Al Naimeh will, truly, have died in vain.

A key to the solution is to understand that, in this context, the phrase "all concerned" means "all of us". It is all too easy to point the finger, and in this recent disaster a wretched tractor driver has been nominated as the scapegoat. Some survivors seem to think that the buses they were travelling in were going too quickly. Others might make reference to the design of the road in question or to the apparent absence of speed limit signs. Whatever the facts in this particular case, it seems to be human nature to want to be able to lay the blame for any unpleasant state of affairs on an easily-identifiable target. This may be convenient, but the truth is not often so straightforward.

At the risk of moving too rapidly away from a genuine human tragedy to a theoretical example, I would like to present the following commonplace example of how complex the issue can be. Imagine that a vehicle is following another along a busy street. They approach a parked car, from behind which a young boy runs into the road. The leading vehicle screeches to a halt and thankfully avoids hitting the child. However, the second vehicle does not stop in time and crashes into the back of the leading one. A passenger in the second vehicle is seriously injured and taken to hospital. Who might be to blame?

Could it be the child? After all, the leading vehicle wouldn't have had to brake at all if the boy had stayed out of the road. But perhaps the driver of that vehicle was driving too fast. Then there's the driver of the following vehicle, maybe he was chatting to his friend at the crucial time and didn't see the vehicle in front braking as soon as he could have. But why, if that was the case, was it only his friend who was injured? Was the friend perhaps not wearing a safety belt? And what about the parked car? Was it parked illegally? Perhaps its driver was at fault.

Without any trouble, therefore, we have found five individuals each of whom might be, at least in some way, to blame for the accident and/or the injury it caused. Even if this incident happened in reality, it might not be possible to get to the root of the matter.

Then, what about the issue of indirect responsibility? Why did the boy dash out into the road? Were parents or older children responsible for keeping him safe? Had he ever received even the most basic road safety training at school or at home? Could the police have moved the parked car on? Should parking restrictions have been in force? Was the road at that point an awkward bend? Were there any railings to help keep the boy on the sidewalk? In what condition were the tyres of the vehicles involved? Had it been raining?

I raise so many different questions simply to show that, in the case of any road accident, a great number of factors may have contributed to the incident and many of these could actually have been involved. But this is not an exercise in illustrating complexity; what I am trying to do is to change our perspective from one where we seek to apportion blame to one where we seek to identify responsibility.

In some respects, I know, these two words can be used synonymously. There is an old saying, though, that "prevention is better than a cure." For me, blame is all about the latter, trying in some way

to deal with an unpleasant incident after it has taken place. Responsibility, in this context, is a much more positive word. Blame will always remain something that only applies after the fact. But the identification of responsibility can lead to prevention.

Which brings us back to incidents such as the Muthallath Al Naimeh crash. If all we do is blame someone we gain nothing except possibly a short-term outlet for grief or anger. Instead it is essential that we learn what we can that will help us to reduce the likelihood of a similar disaster occurring in the future. This is an exercise which must involve the identification of who needs to take responsibility for change. While we might generally put the onus on "the authorities" in this respect, the government, the police, engineers, legislators, etc. we are all road users, either as drivers, passengers, pedestrians or a combination of all three. Thus it becomes clear that no-one is without some form of responsibility for ensuring that similar accidents are avoided in the future.

But will each accept their share of the responsibility? The task is enormous and we can easily fear that our own contribution is worthless. Every member and every part of society has a part to play. Each of us as individuals must take more responsibility for our own actions as drivers, passengers and pedestrians. Schools must be able to give adequate road safety training to children. Parents must take responsibility for their children's welfare. The police have a major role in the enforcement of traffic law. The government has a legislative role and tremendous power to influence the actions of others.

Perhaps the single factor most likely to hamper efforts to improve road safety is that age-old problem that many of the solutions are not available in the short term. We can easily lose our enthusiasm for change. But, as they say, you've got to start somewhere. In Britain, the government set a target of reducing the number of casualties in road accidents by 33 per cent between 1985 and the year 2000, a 15-year period. Yet, I'm glad to say, the country is well on its way to meeting the target. In London, for instance, the 1991 casualty level was 15 per cent below that of 1985. The level fluctuates, of course, but the overall trend is encouragingly downwards.

This success was made possible by experts and campaigners encouraging the government to take a national lead. Local councils are now all required to produce an annual road safety plan to demonstrate progress and proposed action. This action is in each of seven "key areas": the planning process itself; ensuring the availability of accurate information about the nature and scale of the problems; engineering works; education and training; enforcement of traffic legislation; encouragement of improved road safety by advertising campaigns; and the co-ordination of resources such that everyone is working towards the same objective. All seven areas must be strong to ensure progress. A big task; but as the author of the road safety plan for a London municipality, I can add my own testimony that this approach works.

Will it happen in Jordan? The basic conditions are already in place. Experts and campaigners, such as the Society for the Prevention of Road Accidents (SPRA) and the Jordan Times, are raising their voices. Sadly, the director of the SPRA was quoted recently as saying that, "It seems that nobody listens." Perhaps the additional cries of the victims of the latest tragedy will provide the vital breakthrough. The government can take the lead. But will it? And if it does, will the nation respond?

The writer is a British traffic engineer working in Jordan.

Educating children of war

By Vidhusli Vasudeva

KARTON KASSALA, some 30 kilometres from the centre of the Sudanese capital Khartoum, is a barren quarter where rows of crudely built mud dwellings are separated by sandy stretches of land with little vegetation. Goats browse placidly through heaps of garbage under the scorching sun. Over the years since 1985 it has become the destination of waves of people displaced by the civil war in the south. Its population is now approximately 65,000.

One of the residents is 15-year-old Juma Al Nour, who came to live with his uncle five years ago to escape from the terror and misery of armed conflict in Bahr El Ghazal state. Tall and lean, Juma can be seen every morning walking to Escoria Primary School where he is in the fifth grade. Juma wants to be a doctor when he grows up, and he especially enjoys studying science. "I want to help people suffering from disease and sickness," he tells a visitor with a shy smile. The school also gives him an opportunity to play sports, and his long legs and agility make him particularly good at soccer.

Juma's school was established in 1989 and consists of a row of five brick classrooms, each about 14 metres by eight metres, and a smaller room used as an office. Next to the brick structures is a reed hall used for evening classes. Eight toilets have been constructed for the use of the pupils. The rest of the school's 3,500 square metres of land is used as a playground where pupils play soccer and volleyball. There is no water source and drinking water has to be bought daily from water sellers.

Parents and teachers work together to solve the problems faced by the children. The current priorities of the Parents and Teachers Association are provision of breakfast to the pupils, safe water through the installation of handpumps, and improvements in hygiene and sanitation.

The school has a total of 300 pupils and 11 teachers. The lower classes have an average of 60 pupils each while in grades five and six the average declines to 35.

Dropout rates are high because children need to help at home or earn an income. Juma shares his classroom with 31 other pupils, most of them boys. The classroom, like the others beside it, is filled with neat rows of desks and benches. The teachers have between three and five years' experience, three have a teacher-training diploma obtained after a two-year course.

Escoria Primary School is an example of how UNICEF works in partnership with non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and ministries to improve the lives of children in Sudan. UNICEF supplied educational materials for the school, which was established and is operated by the Save the Children Fund (U.K.). The NGO also helped with the construction of the school. The curriculum is approved by the Ministry of Education.

Juma is lucky not only to be going to school, but to a school where the classrooms are relatively spacious and the environment conducive to study. Hundreds of thousands of displaced children in Sudan do not get the opportunity to go to school. Those that do frequently study in overcrowded makeshift classrooms, sitting on earthen blocks or stones, or they have no classrooms and are given lessons in the open air.

Few schools for the displaced have access to safe water and adequate sanitation. The schools also suffer from a shortage of trained teachers, textbooks and other educational materials. The dropout rate is high: A 1994 census of children in exceptionally difficult circumstances in Juba (capital of Bahr El Ghazal state) found that 30.6 per cent had dropped out of school. The reasons for this were mostly socio-economic, with inability to continue paying school fees topping the list.

In 1992, UNICEF started its Emergency Education Programme in Sudan with a U.S.\$2.4 million contribution from the Netherlands government. The main aims of the programme are the rehabilitation of basic education infrastructure and the opening up of educational opportunities to displaced children. The programme components in-

clude teacher training, and provision of school furniture, textbooks, teachers guidebooks, exercise books, blackboards, chalk and other educational materials.

UNICEF approaches the education of displaced children in an integrated way. In addition to being given direct educational assistance, schools are also a priority target for UNICEF's water and environmental sanitation programme. Teacher training courses organised by UNICEF incorporate the influence of psycho-social factors and nutrition on pupil performance. UNICEF's health and nutrition programmes also help to create an environment more conducive to education.

Many displaced children have undergone deeply traumatic experiences: The assessment in Juba, referred to above, found that 40.3 per cent of the children remembered the death of parents or guardians, 13.7 per cent had witnessed the torture or killing of guardians, 16 per cent had been abandoned or mistreated. UNICEF is in the process of establishing an institute for child trauma which will train teachers and health/social workers to identify and help war-traumatised children.

So far the Emergency Education Programme has benefitted more than 250,000 displaced children all over Sudan. Five hundred classrooms have been rehabilitated and 405 constructed. Training has been provided to 959 teachers. A pilot project to train teachers through distance learning has been designed in cooperation with the Sudan Open Learning Unit and the new University of Bahr El Ghazal. Untrained teachers in the town of Wau will receive course material by mail so that they can study while continuing to work. Once the teaching problems have been solved, the project will be expanded to other areas.

For displaced children, torn from their roots and with little hope of survival except through charity, education represents a key to a better life.

The writer is a freelance writer residing in Sudan.



THE "DEAR LEADER" Kim Jong-il (R) stands next to his late father President Kim Il-sung (AFP photo)

Kim Jong Il, long groomed to be next 'great leader'

By Roger Crabb
Reuter

TOKYO — The eldest son of North Korean President Kim Il-sung, whose death was announced on Saturday, was groomed by his father for 20 years to succeed him in the Communist world's first dynastic handover.

A mysterious, reclusive figure, the chubby, bespectacled Kim Jong-il, 52, had already taken over much of the day-to-day running of the isolated Stalinist state in recent years and in 1991 officially assumed control of its million-strong army.

Yet speculation persisted, fuelled by defectors' reports, that there was stubborn opposition to the younger Kim within the military and in sectors of the ruling party and government.

Foreign intelligence sources called him a capricious, unstable playboy and held him responsible for several terrorist attacks on South Korean targets in the 1980s.

He was widely blamed for masterminding the 1983 rangoon bomb that killed top ministers of visiting

South Korean President Chun Doo Hwan, and the 1987 bomb that destroyed a civilian airliner over the Andaman Sea, killing all 115 aboard.

Yet, to state media within North Korea's hermetically sealed borders, Kim Jong-il could do no wrong.

Dubbed the "dear leader" to distinguish him from his father, who was the "great leader", he increasingly inherited the towering personality cult that raised his father to godlike status.

North Korea's press heaped praise on him at every turn, crediting him with inspiring higher production, technical inventions and cultural advances. Although he never spent a day in the armed forces, he was regularly dubbed a "military genius".

In one especially bizarre twist, newspapers seized on a new hybrid flower called "kimjongilia", named after him by a Japanese horticulturist, as proof of his glorious reputation was spreading widely abroad.

At the time of his father's death, Kim Jong-il ranked second only to Kim Il-sung in key organs of the Communist ruling Workers' Party.

He was not, however, among the four state vice-presidents, a gap in his responsibilities that prompted speculation that he might not, after all, inherit the presidency.

Little is known for sure about the man Kim Il-sung chose to inherit his absolute sway over North Korea's 22 million souls. Despite the relentless propaganda barrage, his voice is almost never broadcast. He is rarely photographed, and he is known to have made only a few foreign trips, all behind a cloak of secrecy.

His rise to the number two post was no pushover, despite his father's towering prestige. Though Kim Jong-il assumed a number of high party posts as far back as 1980, he was reported to have met opposition from senior army officers who felt he was too inexperienced to succeed the great leader.

It clearly took the president a long time too, to convince his chief Communist allies, China and the then Soviet Union, to accept the idea of a dynastic succession.

In 1984, Kim Il-sung decided to force the issue. State media began lauding his son as North Korea's

heir-apparent, and as an outstanding leader destined to complete the technical, ideological and cultural revolutions the president had begun.

Several times since then, however, the Supreme People's Assembly, North Korea's parliament, conferred diplomats and other Korea watchers by declining to name Kim Jong-il a state vice-president.

Last December, the assembly again chose vice-presidents and again he was passed over. Elected instead was Kim Yong-Ju, the president's younger brother, making a dramatic comeback after 17 years in political eclipse.

Back in the 1970s Kim Yong-Ju had been considered a serious contender for the succession. His sudden reappearance prompted some analysts to speculate that Kim Jong-il's inheritance might not be quite so secure after all.

Kim Yong-Ju was quoted early this year as telling a foreign diplomat he had no differences with his nephew and no leadership ambitions.

Although for years the dear leader's authority officially covered diplomacy,

he rarely greeted foreign dignitaries. He left that task to his father, who remained active to the end.

Factual information about the younger Kim is virtually non-existent.

The official press says he was born in the deep forests of North Korea's sacred mount Paekdu on February 16, 1942, at a secret camp on the Chinese border as Korean guerrillas fought Japanese troops.

He was the first of two sons born to Kim Il-sung and his deceased first wife, Kim Jong-Suk. His brother later died but he has a younger sister. One half-brother is Kim Pyong-il, reported this year to have been named ambassador to Finland.

Though his formative years are shrouded in mystery, Kim Jong-il is believed to have spent the 1950-53 Korean war in China. Later, he went to school in East Germany where he was said to have learned to fly airplanes.

He graduated in 1963 from Kim Il-sung University in Pyongyang, where he studied politics and economics.

According to unconfirmed reports, he has two children

Millions take a chance on U.S. 'green card' lottery

By Nicole Deshayes
Agence France Presse

WASHINGTON — More than nine million people eager to be legal U.S. residents have entered this year's "green card" lottery, a draw that brings out many unscrupulous "experts" trying to sell advice to would-be immigrants.

The prize in the random lottery is the U.S. residency card — once green, but now pink — a must for immigrants seeking permanent residence and employment in the United States.

From June 1 to June 30, the special programme run by the State Department accepted simple applications from foreign nationals residing illegally in the United States and would-be immigrants living abroad.

It was established in 1990 as part of a stopgap effort to diversify the pool of incoming U.S. immigrants, after the 1970s saw a surge in immigration from Central America, the Caribbean and Southeast Asia.

Of the 55,000 cards up for grabs in the lottery, 24,349 are earmarked for European nationals; 20,200 for African nationals and 10,251 for Asian and South American citizens. From each region, some countries were excluded which already have substantial immigrant populations in the United States.

There is only one prerequisite for eligible lottery

players: They must have completed their secondary (high-school) level studies or have had work experience in a field requiring at least two years of study.

Applicants simply are asked to jot down on a blank sheet of paper their name, address, date and place of birth, and the names of their spouse and children if applicable. They then send their entry to the State Department with a reply envelope.

Simple as the process is, a flood of immigration lawyers and self-styled specialists advertised their services and launched direct-mail campaigns, promising help with entering the lottery for between 10 and 800 dollars.

Mark Wurzel, the chief of staff of the New York City department of consumer affairs, said it was a tragedy such "vultures" were circling.

But the advisory services are anything but illegal, unless the so-called experts make promises they cannot keep. About a half-dozen New York lawyers have been charged with false advertising and fined, Mr. Wurzel said.

New York city also published a leaflet in nine languages to explain the lottery and alert would-be applicants to possible scams.

"There is no need to hire anyone to assist you in the application process," the text reads. "It is quick, straightforward, easy and

free."

The American Association of Immigration lawyers urges its 3,000 members to give free assistance on the lottery, which could help send them business later.

"Nobody requires you to go to the doctor when you have a cold," said attorney Paul Gleiberman. "Some people feel more comfortable hiring a lawyer."

"Things can be done to add to your chance," Mr. Gleiberman said. "We maximise the applications to improve your odds."

The State Department allows only one entry per year and says multiple applications can disqualify the would-be U.S. resident.

"There is no room for error," Mr. Gleiberman stressed. "Things have to be done right."

His office unleashed a blizzard of 30,000 notices to diplomats, foreign journalists, U.N. staff and businessmen, offering assistance for 100 dollars per person, or 200 dollars per family.

It is a "very moderate charge," says Mr. Gleiberman. "It's a service to people. We lose money on this." He said the price tag on the mass mailing was 50,000 dollars.

Of the 300 applications that his office handled last year, he said 16 or 17 were green card winners. "Statistically very good," he added.

By Francois Mitterrand

PARIS — How can we accept that millions of men, women and children in the poor Southern countries continue to die in front of our television cameras? If these awful sights lead us to feel compassion, that is all very well. But our reactions of late have too often been only capricious.

I fear that those of us in the richer countries of the North have gone in recent years from an embarrassed indifference to a smug indifference about it all. Each country, it seems, is now only concerned with its own backyard. Any interest in development has dwindled. Some governments are even saying that if the poor countries can't get out of their crisis, it is their own problem and probably their own fault because they are not trying. This is a tragedy.

The truth is that our entire planet will become uninhabitable if we buy into the illusion that we need only make it inhabitable for the few. It is foolish to believe otherwise.

It first of all makes sense from the standpoint of expanding trade to incorporate everyone into the global economy; and if we create some kind of a global outclass by excluding whole parts of the globe from growth, then diseases such as AIDS, the flow of drugs and the environmental destruction wrought by poverty will duly exact their price on the smug in times to come. For these reasons we need to make sure the poor countries do not stay on the fringe.

Inequalities continue to grow despite the claim that the global market is the panacea for all ills. Relying on humanitarian assistance and the rules of the market are insufficient to cope with a situation where one-fifth of humanity lives below the poverty line.

What we need instead is a "development contract" between the North and the



South. We need a single global view on development, just as there is a single global view on the environment that emerged from the Rio summit.

Such a contract must be based on a new international ethical-moral code. I know this has been said before and some have disparaged it. But if we do not start with that we won't get very far.

Development aid must become something more than a means to help the poor countries respect their financial obligations; it must be a means to help bolster respect for social and moral contracts within societies and within the world community.

It is all linked together. If no development takes place, then there can be no lasting domestic peace in these countries torn by strife. In the midst of poverty and strife it is impossible to set up a state of law and respect human

rights. If development is only considered in its financial dimension, so that a country can join a world where market forces continue to rule supreme, then social equilibrium and equality will continue to be broken and strife will continue to break out.

For its part, the South needs to understand that it is impossible to have economic prosperity without democratic efficiency. Only in a democracy is it possible to settle conflicts without force and violence. Only when a democratic state exists will citizens be able to ensure continuity in the management of a country.

For this reason, the developed countries have to concern themselves with the rule of law in the South. The protection of minorities under the law is something that should be a particular focal point. The new South Africa is a very good example

to follow.

There are three elements to the development contract I propose:

Development contract: If all the industrialised countries would commit to a goal of setting aside 0.7 per cent of their gross domestic product to development aid, \$130 billion would be made available for investment in infrastructure, education and health in the poor countries.

I am not suggesting that my own country has been perfect in this particular area, but we have increased aid by 40 per cent in real terms, bringing us quite close to that goal. France has also cancelled or rescheduled debts to 39 of the poorest countries in the world.

The International Monetary Fund should also make available Special Drawing Rights for the neediest of its member countries. For now the IMF only serves to in-

crease the profits of the rich nations that were members before 1981, and not the 36 newer members who need funds the most.

If this injustice of the world finance system were corrected, it would make another \$50 billion in hard currency available for indispensable development.

Mutual respect: The leaders of developing countries have made it clear that they do not want to be sacrificed to the liberalism of global free markets. In turn these countries must be asked to respect the rights of workers. It is unbearable to see the absence of trade unions and workers' rights in so many countries, and to see how children and prisoners are exploited. It is disgraceful to see that countries which justly struggled for independence from colonialism are violating the rights of their own people.

We need some common understanding between North and South on these matters.

Inventive arrangements: When the countries of the South organise themselves to seek fair market prices for their commodities — be they coffee or wood — in the world market, they are on the right track. When countries of the South cooperate with other countries of the South, they are contributing to their own success. These kinds of arrangements must be encouraged.

We can no longer entrust the development of the world to monetary rules alone. We must resist the trend that aid for development is being taken off the agenda of the rich countries' policies. Economic security on a world scale must be part of the reform agenda of all multilateral institutions, from the World Trade Organisation to the United Nations.

The French President's article is reprinted from the Los Angeles Times.

EU banks dominate world lending — BIS

BASLE, Switzerland (R) — European Union (EU) banks have consolidated their dominant position in international lending at the expense of rivals from North America and Japan, the Bank for International Settlements (BIS) said Tuesday.

The Basel-based BIS, a central bank for central bankers, added that EU banks were the biggest lenders in all parts of the world except Asia at the end of last year.

In a report on lending by BIS-area banks to countries outside the area, the BIS said the share of international bank lending held by EU banks has risen to a provisional 45.2 per cent at the end of 1993 from 34.8 per cent eight years earlier.

Germany banks led the EU with \$109.6 billion of claims at the end of 1993 on countries outside the BIS reporting area, which comprises the Group of 10 rich industrial countries as well as Austria, Denmark, Finland, Ireland, Luxembourg and Spain.

Thirty-seven per cent of German banks' outstanding loans were to eastern Europe, 24 per cent to Latin America, 11.4 per cent to Asia, 6.2 per cent to the Middle East, and 2.5 per cent to Africa.

The share of international lending held by North American banks has fallen to 14.7 per cent from 27.8 per cent at the end of 1985, when the BIS started compiling the statistics.

The BIS said North American banks had reduced their exposure to all groups of debtor countries, particularly Latin America.

"This reassessment of North American banks' international presence was to some extent due to the multiplication of problem loans in the 1980s and the resulting broad deterioration in their credit standing," the BIS said.

"But it was also due to a shift in their lending policy away from the international market and into the buoyant sectors of the domestic economy," it added.

The BIS said the improved creditworthiness of North American banks in the last two years, however, had allowed them to return to the market, with a particularly strong rise in claims on Latin America.

The BIS said "other banks," including those from Japan, saw their share of international lending rise to 46.3 per cent at the end of 1990 from 37.4 per cent at end-1985 but then slip to 40.1 per cent at the end of 1993.

Japanese banks remained the most important single national group with \$141 billion of claims at the end of 1993 on outside-area countries, including \$72.7 billion of claims in Asian nations.

But Japanese banks have reduced lending activity since the end of 1991 due to official pressure to deal with doubtful loans, their own concerns about credit quality, and capital requirements, the BIS added.

AFM share prices drop an average 25% since January

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Stock prices at the Amman Financial Market (AFM) have lost an average of 25 per cent since the beginning of the year and the trend is likely to continue unless investors see tangible signs of economic returns of the 30-month-old Arab-Israeli peace process, brokers said Tuesday.

Optimism generated by Jordan's recent debt rescheduling accord with the Paris Club and expectations of direct debt relief from the U.S. appeared to have been outweighed by investor concern over the state of Jordanian-Palestinian economic cooperation across the River Jordan.

While the official AFM

share price index showed a 14 per cent drop since January, the brokers said that indicators excluded many of the smaller companies whose stocks have steadily declined.

The AFM index closed at 142.1 on Tuesday, down 20 points from the year's opening, and the 1994 record of 168 points in March. Average volume of trading in the past four days remained around JD 400,000 compared with the all-time record of JD 17 million registered in July last year.

"The AFM index only includes major companies and excludes the ups and downs of smaller companies, some of which have lost up to 40 per cent since the beginning of the year," said a seasoned broker. "By and large, a careful scrutiny of all shares

in the market and their performance so far will indicate an average drop of 25 per cent."

Several other brokers and banking officials agreed with the assessment.

Turnover in the first six months of this year declined to JD 292 million compared with JD 582 million during the same period last year — a decline of 29.75 per cent. The number of contracts struck since January shrank to 133,636 from 178,019 in 1993 — a drop of nearly 25 per cent.

The market got a boost in 1991 with the return of tens of thousands of expatriate families from Kuwait with their life savings, part of which went to reviving various economic sectors and to investment in stocks.

Share prices shot up as a result, and the rise continued with the launch of the peace process and the promises peace held out in terms of economic activities.

Turnover at the AFM for the year 1993 was nearly JD 1 billion, a record for a market of the size.

Not everybody is pessimistic about the decline at the AFM. On the contrary, many banking officials and officials believe that the climbdown in prices was inevitable and they welcome it since they see it as a move towards "realism" after two years of artificial inflation.

"There was a huge superficial margin attached to most of the shares in the market," said an official who deals with economic matters. "This margin was the result of

hopes attached to economic cooperation with the occupied territories and expected gains from the development of the territories.

"The margin is being shed now and Jordanian stocks are heading towards more realistic prices based on purely internal factors rather than hopes and expectations," added a banking executive, who also preferred anonymity. "Sure enough, some people are going to find themselves on the losing end, but isn't that the name of the game in the stock market?"

An Egyptian statement that it would be operating a helicopter flight between the Gaza Strip and Cairo as a link between the autonomous territories and the outside world was another sign interpreted by local investors as PLO

apathy in political/economic cooperation with Jordan.

Another factor that contributed to the drop in the AFM was the gradual withdrawal by several Western portfolio firms which opted for better pastures to Asia and Latin America, according to brokers.

"Investor enthusiasm was raised with the prospect of foreign companies coming with as much as \$100 million in capital to the AFM," said a banking official who deals with portfolios in the market. "Subsequently speculators gave an artificial boost to shares, hoping to move in for the kill with foreign operators."

Now that most of the foreign firms have either quit the

(Continued on page 9)

Dealers: Dollar may go lower unless Fed acts

U.S. currency struggles to find a floor in Europe

LONDON (R) — The dollar struggled to stabilise on European currency markets on Tuesday after taking further punishment in Tokyo, but dealers expect any pause to be only temporary if governments and central banks still stand aside.

With the markets seemingly free to set their own levels, the dollar hit a new post-war low of 96.95 yen in New York and also slid to 1.5266 marks in Tokyo.

But it came back slightly in European trading to 97.25 yen and 1.5297 marks, mainly due to traders covering short positions taken out earlier. Dealers said volumes were

not heavy, suggesting the U.S. currency is likely to drift gently downwards to test new lows over the next few days.

Most operators are convinced that the Group of Seven (G-7) nations were unable to agree on a remedy for the dollar during their summit meeting in Naples at the weekend, and that President Bill Clinton gave the game away when he suggested economic recovery should not be endangered by interest-rate rises that might help the beleaguered dollar.

The U.S. unit fell heavily in Europe Monday and the dive continued in New York and then Tokyo, until the

slide was arrested in European morning trading.

"There may be a slight retracement. If the dollar can manage 1.5350 (marks), that's as far as we can expect," said a dealer at a German bank in London.

The Bank of Japan intervened repeatedly to keep the dollar above 97 yen in Tokyo, dealers said. But they doubted other central banks would jointly intervene to support the dollar at current levels because the impact would still likely be limited.

The most probable next step, many analysts say, is a half-percentage-point rise in U.S. interest rates that could

be justified by the continued strength of the U.S. economy as shown by recent jobs data and perhaps inflation figures due this week.

"In a month, the dollar has fallen nine per cent, which is a big, big move," said Peter Luxton, economic advisor at Barclays Bank in London.

"Will it force the Fed to hike rates?"

Dealers believe that the dollar could crash to more record low points unless the U.S. Federal Reserve (Fed) raises interest rates, dealers believe.

Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce Economist Nick Parsons warned: "This is not

the end of the dollar's decline."

Dealers said the currency could fall to a new low point of 1.52 marks later Tuesday when dealers began to trade in New York.

Other dealers believe a slightly correction is in order before the U.S. currency can slide further, towards the key support levels of 1.50 marks and 95.00 yen.

Analysts dismissed fears of central bank intervention, and rumours that the G-7 had agreed a secret plan at the summit to thwart the markets.

"To believe that the G-7 has a secret gunning plan

gives finance ministers much more credit than experience shows they deserve," said Mr. Parsons, citing sterling's abrupt exit from the European Exchange Rate Mechanism in September 1992.

At Chemical Bank, Malcolm Barr said: "The market lost two per cent of its value yesterday, and that on its own should be enough to bring the central banks in."

But "this morning's dollar rally was very unconvincing, and the market has legitimate short term reasons to sell the dollar."

(Continued on page 9)

Survey says Japanese corporate profits to fall 10.2% if dollar stays at 95 yen

TOKYO (AFP) — Major 200 Japanese listed companies project their combined pre-tax profits to plunge 10.2 per cent in the year to next March if the dollar stabilises at 95 yen, according to a newspaper survey published Tuesday.

This would result in the fifth consecutive year-on-year decline in combined corporate profits, the leading business daily Nihon Keizai Shimbun, which conducted the survey, said.

The 200 firms, excluding banks, insurance companies and securities houses, expect their combined sales to fall four per cent in the same period, the daily said.

If the dollar is at 100 yen, the survey showed that the firms' combined profits are projected to decline 3.4 per cent and combined sales to fall two per cent year on year, the daily said.

When fiscal 1994 started in April 1, 1994, the 200 firms expected a 0.6 per cent drop in combined pre-tax profits on a 0.4 per cent fall in sales for the fiscal year, it said.

Meanwhile, 1,542 listed companies nationwide, excluding banks, insurers and brokerage houses, had previously expected a 5.7 per cent rise in their combined pre-tax profits, the daily said.

The daily said that processing industry, such as automakers and electronics companies, are hardest-hit by the yen's appreciation.

Hitachi Ltd., the nation's largest electric machinery manufacturer, earlier projected an 11 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to 80 billion yen (\$816 million), which would be the first profit rise in five years if realised, the daily said.

However, at 95 yen to a

dollar, Hitachi's pre-tax profits are likely to fall 16 per cent to around 60 billion yen, it said.

Nissan Motor Co. Ltd., the nation's No. 2 automaker, would face a pre-tax loss of around 20 billion yen if the dollar stays at 95 yen, the daily said.

The world's largest steel-maker Nippon Steel Corp. may face 100 billion yen in actual losses, but is likely to report smaller pre-tax losses by raising revenues from stock sales, it said.

On the other hand, some electric firms such as Matsushita Electric Industrial Co. Ltd., Sharp Corp., and Kyocera Corp. are likely to secure increases in pretax profits even if the dollar stands at 95 yen, the daily said, noting their cost-cutting efforts and competitive products.

EU finance ministers confirm course for single currency

BRUSSELS (AFP) — Finance ministers of the European Union (EU) have confirmed the speed and direction of policy towards the creation of economic and monetary union by the end of the century.

The centrepiece of monetary union is the creation of a single currency, and German Finance Minister Theo Waigel stressed that ministers had to be rigorous in deciding which members had public deficits exceeding the criteria for economic convergence.

Germany holds the presidency of the council of ministers and the meeting formally adopted the main lines of economic policy for 1994-95 which had been accepted by the leaders of the 12 EU countries at a summit meeting in Corfu at the end of June.

The policy principles underline the need for a re-

duction of public deficits, a moderation of pay increases, and a reversal of the trend for long-term interest rates to rise.

The EU commission must not diminish the importance of criteria concerning deficits, he said.

The Maastricht treaty on monetary and political union laid down that public deficits could amount to no more than three per cent of gross domestic product (GDP).

Commission officials had implied recently that this requirement might be relaxed for some countries, given he efforts which they were making to reduce their deficits.

Mr. Waigel, who presented Germany's financial priorities for the council during the next six months, said that the recession was over and that the task now was to ensure there was stable economic growth.

"Our policy to reduce un-

employment must be centred on the strength of national and community budgets, on low interest rates and on an increase in the confidence of consumers and investors," he said.

Deregulation, particularly of the labour market, and the duty of employers and employees to increase the flexibility of pay arrangements, were also conditions for growth and an improvement in the competitive position of the EU economy, Mr. Waigel said.

Finance ministers from Austria, Finland, Norway and Sweden, which are due to join the union, attended the meeting.

Norwegian Finance Minister Sigbjørn Johnsen, commenting on a so-called white paper on growth, competitiveness and employment which has been adopted by the 12 members.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY JULY 13, 1994

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: An especially good day to gather information you are seeking that has been difficult to grasp in the past. Talk over these new facts with associates to see where they stand with these new circumstances.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You have creative ideas which need proper arranging before putting them in operation. Personal goals can be easily attained now.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Make necessary changes in the home that will give you added comfort. Be sure business affairs are running smoothly for you.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You can benefit greatly by concerted action in your line of endeavour at this time. Avoid unnecessary expenditure of money.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You know how best to add to present abundance, so stop wasting valuable time. Express happiness with loved one tonight.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) A good time to go after that goal which is so important to you. Listen to complaints of family members instead of airing your own views.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Contact allies who can give you the support you need for an important project you have in mind. Show that you are sincere.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Know what your personal aims are and go after them in a positive manner. Sidestep one who is trying to make trouble for you at this time.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Be sure not to invest more money than you can afford or you could regret it later. Show others that you have wisdom to handle any situation.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Your intuitive faculties are working well at this time, so make good use of them. You can handle business matters wisely now.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Use better and more modern methods in your business dealings and get excellent results. Don't neglect important bills which must be paid.

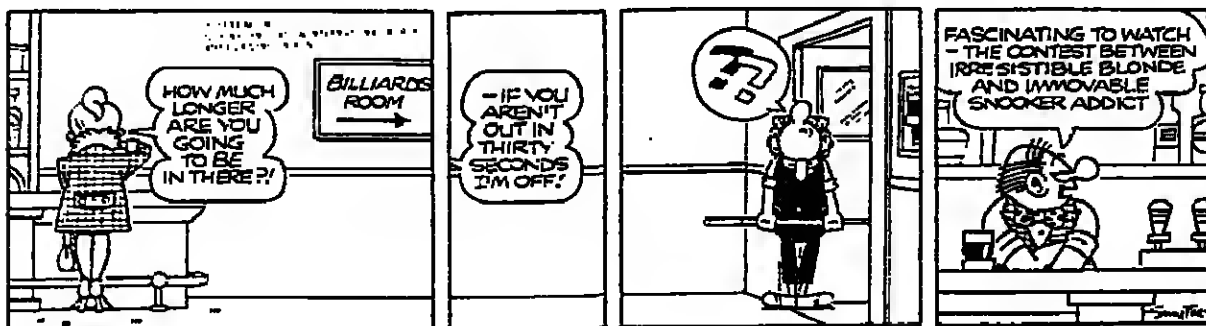
AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Making as many allies as you can is wise at this time. Much care in motion must be exercised now to avoid possible accidents.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Make any changes necessary to improve the quality of your work and reap the benefits you are entitled to. Show that you have ability.

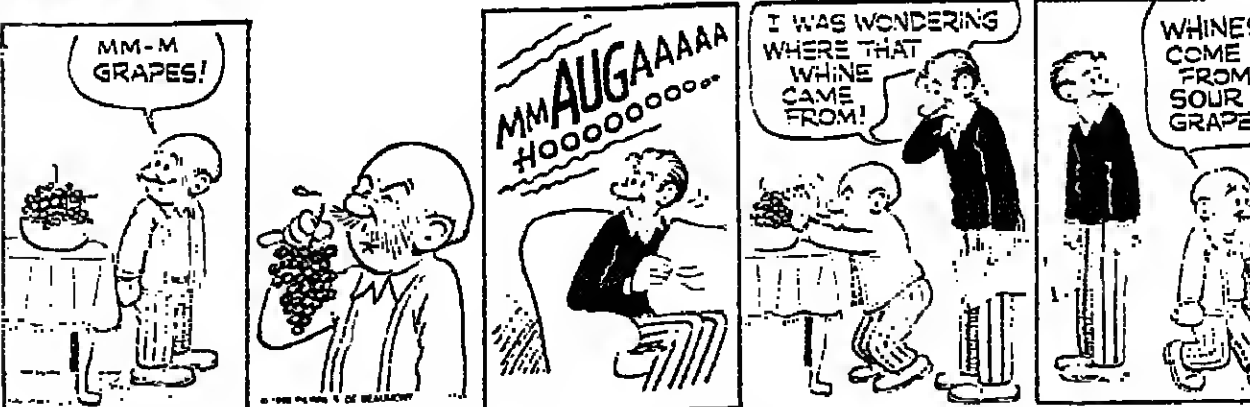
Peanuts



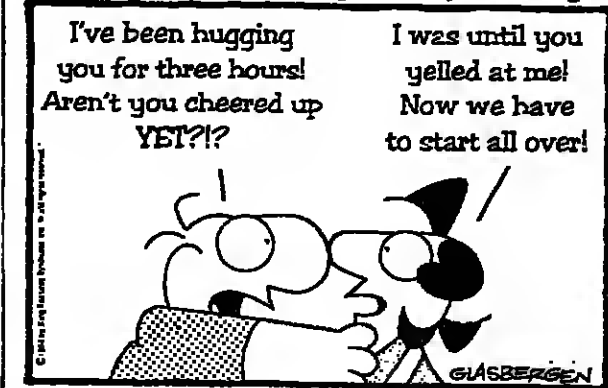
Andy Capp



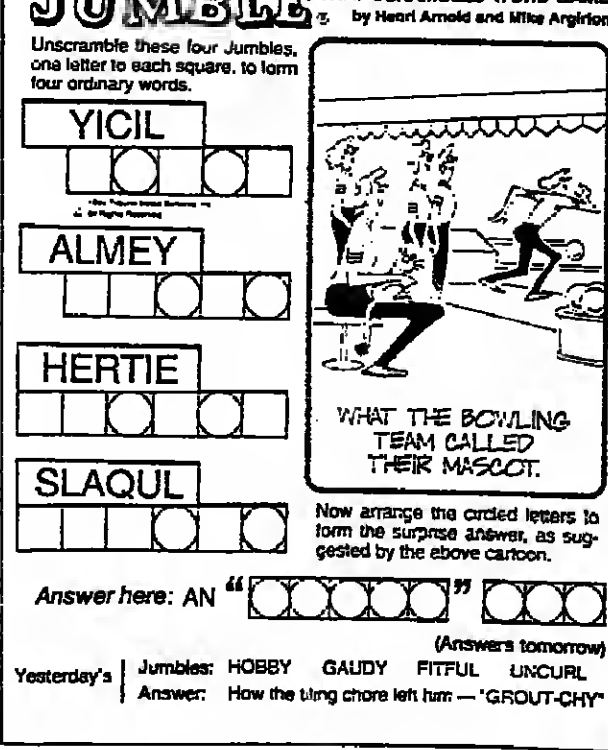
Mutt'n'Jeff



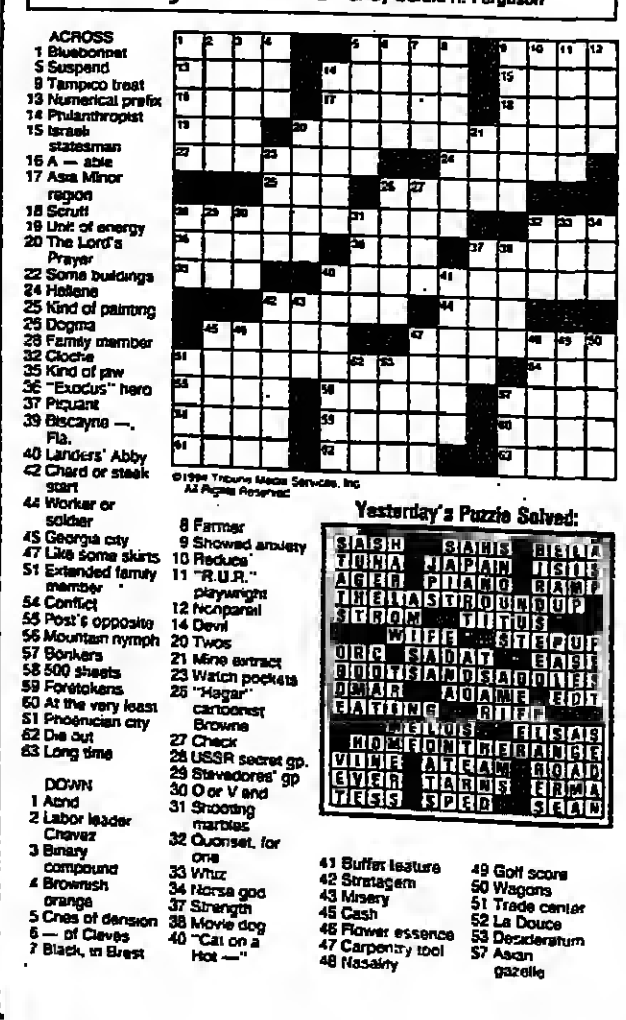
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THE Daily Crossword



Financial Markets

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Close 11/7/94	Tokyo Close 12/7/94
Sterling Pound	1.5720	1.5725
Deutsche Mark	1.5280	1.5266
Swiss Franc	1.2890	1.2887
French Franc	5.2525	5.2545**
Japanese Yen	97.73	97.07
European Currency Unit	1.2495	1.2471**

* 100 Per 100
** 100 Per 100

Source: Reuters

Date: 12/7/1994

1 MTH 3 MTHS 6 MTHS 12 MTHS

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	4.37	4.66	5.12	5.66
Sterling Pound	4.81	5.00	5.21	5.60
Deutsche Mark	4.66	4.68	4.66	4.67
Swiss Franc	5.67	4.00	4.12	4.37
French Franc	5.50	5.50	5.68	5.83
Japanese Yen	1.81	1.93	1.93	2.06
European Currency Unit	5.81	5.87	6.00	6.31

Interbank bid rates for currencies: 1 U.S. Dollar = 1,000,000 or equivalent

Period	USD/02	JD/02	Period	USD/02	JD/02
Gold	385.95	7.20	Silver	5.32	0.117

21 hour

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Date: 12/7/1994

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6660	0.6660
Sterling Pound	1.8763	1.8837
Deutsche Mark	0.4490	0.4512
Swiss Franc	0.5917	0.5944
French Franc	0.1307	0.1314
Japanese Yen	0.7059	0.7074

Dutch Guilder	0.4002	0.4022
Swedish Krona	0.0000	0.0000
Italian Lira	0.0451	0.0453
Belgian Franc	0.0000	0.0000

For 100

Other Currencies Date: 12/7/1994

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.8940	1.8180
Lebanese Lira	0.039845	0.041580
Saudi Riyal	0.1820	0.1835
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.5200	2.5400
Qatari Riyal	0.1862	0.1872
Egyptian Pound	0.2050	0.2300
Omani Ryal	1.7630	1.7760
UAE Dirham	0.1862	0.1872
Greek Drachma	0.2655	0.2735
Cypriot Pound	1.3520	1.4450

For 100

Source: Reuters

Date: 12/7/1994

1 MTH 3 MTHS 6 MTHS 12 MTHS

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	4.37	4.66	5.12	5.66
Sterling Pound	4.81	5.00	5.21	5.60
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French Franc	0.1307	0.1314
Japanese Yen	0.7059	0.7074

One sterling 1.8763/1.8837

One ounce of gold \$386.20/\$386.70

AFM share prices drop

(Continued from page 8)

market or are keeping their involvement to a bare minimum, investors have no choice but to bring down the prices, noted the banking official. No definite figures are available on how much actual capital was brought in by the foreign firms and how much remained on the trading floor.

Nearly 115 companies are

listed at the AFM with a total market value equity that stood at JD 3.5 billion in January.

The AFM gained prominence in the mid-80s with the infusion of expatriate capital from the Gulf. In the latter half of the decade, the market was deflated as a result of the sharp drop in expatriate remittances and the economic crisis that hit the kingdom.

This means, the banker explained, post-dated cheques and dealings based on exchange of shares are not allowed and each transaction has to be dealt with as an individual deal supported by actual transfer of funds. "True, this limits the growth and scope of the market, but the one who wants growth and scope without the necessary liquidity and cash to support it?"

One of the key factors influencing investors negatively is the state of limbo in finalising an accord of modalities of implementing an economic cooperation agreement signed in January between Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

The Jan. 7 agreement gave Jordan a strong say in the monetary and financial affairs of the Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip and boosted the stock of Jordanian companies seen poised to gain from such cooperation.

But a subsequent Israel-PLO economic accord signed in April was seen to have tied down the Palestinian options of dealing with Jordan and dampened the enthusiasm, and the change of mood is mainly reflected in the stock market, analysts say.

Adding fuel to the concern of investors was what they saw as a clear message from the PLO, which has not signed a document drafted in May outlining the modalities of the Jan. agreement, when Yasser Arafat opted to enter

autonomous Gaza Strip from Egypt rather than Jericho through Jordan.

The number of shares that changed hands at the AFM since the beginning of the year dropped to 95.7 million compared with 158.9 million during the same period last year.

"It is a period of stagnation in the market," said a broker. "Investors are highly sceptical and are awaiting concrete signs of money coming to Jordan as part of the peace process and of Jordanian firms gaining from the economic development of the Palestinians with the hundreds of millions of dollars pledged by the donors."

If the status quo continues, brokers warned, Jordanian stocks are destined for a further climbdown. "There has not been real panic selling until now," said another broker. "But if the stagnation continues and shares prices continue to slip, however lightly, there will be dumping in the market."

One safety valve in the market is a five per cent ceiling for daily fluctuation of individual share prices, but this could serve only to avoid overnight shocks and could do little to stop the gradual slide, noted the brokers, who cannot be identified by name under standing AFM guidelines.

Analysts and bankers refused to describe the drop at the AFM as a crash.

"It is almost impossible to have a 'crash' at the AFM like what happened in Kuwait," said a banker referring to the Al Manakh collapse in the mid-80s in the emirate. "The AFM does not allow forward trading and every transaction has to be concluded with cash transfers on a regular basis."

Dollar may go lower

(Continued from page 8)

The massive United States trade deficit, particularly with Japan, and a reluctance on the part of the U.S. Federal Reserve to neutralise inflationary pressure emerging in a robust economy are hitting the currency, he said.

Lukewarm statements by U.S. President Bill Clinton have also indicated to the markets that the U.S. administration is indulging in a policy of "benign neglect" towards the dollar.

The yield on the 30-year U.S. Treasury bond meanwhile rose again on Tuesday to 7.74 per cent, the highest level for more than a year and a half.

But dealer said that if U.S. June producer price data, to be published Wednesday showed any hints of inflationary pressures, the dollar would be sold sharply; again and the U.S. Federal Reserve could be forced to raise interest rates.

Mr. Parsons said he believed that a rise in U.S. interest rates were "imminent" and might emerge after the publication of U.S. inflation figures.

He said the Fed would raise rates to counter internal inflationary pressures, rather than to support the dollar: "Economic strength rather than dollar weakness."

He said the move would push the dollar higher and "the last person to be short of dollars will find it very expensive."

With European currencies strengthening by the day with a likely dampening effect on exports to the huge U.S. economy, stock markets saw little cause for cheer and there was plenty of red on price screens Tuesday.

The German DAX-30 retreated nearly 15 points by 1000 GMT while London and Paris also showed double-digit declines.

German shares were restrained by concern over the dollar's relentless slide and by speculation that the recent rally in government bonds will peter out.

In Tokyo the Nikkei average ended off 72.61 points or 0.35 per cent at 20,400.48, with the dollar and lingering worries about developments on the Korean peninsula capping prices.

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Underdogs Bulgaria ready to topple Italy

EAST RUTHERFORD (R) — Giantkillers Bulgaria, who hurtled into Germany Sunday, aim to slay former champions Italy Wednesday and take their exhilarating World Cup challenge all the way to the final.

If Bulgaria, 50-1 outsiders after the draw for the finals last December, can reproduce the inspiration which gave them a 2-1 quarterfinal win over the Germans they have every chance against Roberto Baggio's Italy.

Baggio rescued Italy with last-gasp goals against Nigeria in the second round and Spain in the quarterfinals when they had appeared to be heading for World Cup eclipse but escaped instead with a pair of 2-1 victories.

Italy, who lost their opening game against Ireland, have not shown the overwhelming form to match their proud traditions — much like the Germans who saw a 1-0 lead overturned by Hristo Stoichkov and Yordan Lechkov.

Stoichkov and Lechkov, notably abetted by attacking midfielder Krasimir Balakov, proved deadly to Germany and could give the Italian defence an equally torrid time, just as Spain did in the second half Saturday.

With the scalps of triple world champions Germany already on their belts, the lively Bulgarians are ready for further upsets in the Giants Stadium against the nation which won the trophy in 1934, 1938, 1982.

"Italy are a tricky team and I'm expecting a very tough match," Bulgarian goalkeeper Borislav Mihailov said, but added: "I think we have a real chance against Italy. They're not as good a team as

Germany."

Balakov, by contrast, expects a harder time against Italy, a team drawing heavily on the talents of European Cup winners AC Milan from tough Paolo Maldini and Alessandro Costacurta in the heart of defence to the midfield skills of Roberto Donadoni and Daniele Massaro.

But the Baggios of Juventus — European footballer of the year Roberto and nonsense midfielder Dino — may well be the men to make the difference.

Roberto equalised against Nigeria in the 89th minute and notched the winning penalty in extra-time and repeated the last-ditch heroics against Spain with the winning strike in the 88th minute.

Unrelated namesake Dino scored the opener against Spain and also produced the goal in the 1-0 win over Norway. Italy's only victory in the first round.

Italy could recall right back Roberto Mussi, who has recovered from an ankle injury, and restore Giuseppe Signori — a substitute against Spain and provider for Roberto Baggio's decisive goal — to the starting line-up on the left of midfield.

Team chief Arrigo Sacchi has warned his players to beware of complacency. "This is a World Cup in which as soon as you think you've won the match you end up losing it," he said.

"Bulgaria have excellent players with good technique and are strong physically," Bulgaria, who started as unassuming as Italy with a 3-0 hiding from Nigeria, had never won a match in the World Cup finals until this tournament but have now collected victories over



Today's matches

Bulgaria vs. Italy at East Rutherford, N.J., at 23:05 Amman time.

Brazil vs. Sweden at Pasadena, Calif., at 02:35 (Thursday) Amman time.

Greece, former champions Argentina, Mexico and Germany.

Stoichkov scored in all those wins, including two penalties against Greece and the superb free-kick which precipitated Germany's downfall, and looks forward to more heroics against Italy. "We've got nothing to lose and I think we're going to achieve as great a success as we did today," he said after the upset over Germany.

Lechkov, who converted the spot-kick which decided the second-round penalty shoot-out with Mexico and headed the winner against Germany, is happy Bulgaria will be the underdogs against Italy, 13-8 second favourites behind Brazil.

"We are the outsiders and we like being the outsiders," he said.

German captain Lothar Matthausen fancies their chances. "The dangerous thing for Italy is that Bulgaria are not scared of anyone. They have nothing to lose," he said.



Italy's captain Roberto Baggio kicks on a penalty and scores the 2-1 for Italy on extra time during their second round World Cup match with Nigeria at Foxboro stadium (AFP photo)

Probable teams:
Italy — 1-Gianluca Pagliuca, 8-Roberto Mussi, 4-Alessandro Costacurta, 5-Paolo Maldini, 3-Antonio Benarrivo, 16-Roberto Donadoni, 11-Demetrio Albertini, 13-Dino Baggio, 20-Giuseppe Signori, 10-Roberto Baggio, 19-Daniele Massaro.

Bulgaria — 1-Borislav Mihailov, 16-Ilian Kiryakov, 3-Trifan Ivanov, 5-Petar Hristov, 4-Tzanko Tzvetanov, 6-Zlatko Yankov, 9-Yordan Lechkov, 20-Krasimir Balakov, 10-Nasko Sirakov, 7-Emil Kostadinov, 8-Hristo Stoichkov.
Referee: Joel Quiniou (France).

Goal happy Swedish team strike fear into Brazil

LOS ANGELES (AFP) — Sweden's amazing ability to score goals has turned the tables on Brazilian coach Charles Alberto Parreira as he prepares for their semifinal confrontation Wednesday.

Normally Parreira can sit back and let the opposition worry about how to stop Romario and Bebeto but now it is his time to be concerned.

Sweden's 11 goals in one more than Brazil have so far managed and Parreira has singled out Tomas Brodin as the danger man in Wednesday's semifinal.

"The only error we made when we played Sweden to a 1-1 draw in Detroit earlier on was giving Brodin too much room to send Kenneth Andersson away for their goal," Parreira said Monday.

"We don't intend to make the same mistake again."

Bordeaux-based defender Marcio Santos was blamed for letting Brodin escape to set up Andersson's goal.

But Sweden coach Tommy Svensson said they would not be altering their game plan to stop Romario and Bebeto, who have scored seven goals between them so far.

"We were a bit nervous in our first game against Cameroon but came back from behind to draw. You don't want to take any risks but the further you go in a tournament the better you get. We are certainly not going to start worrying about Brazil now," he said.

Joachim Bjorklund, who might not have played if Jan Eriksson had not been injured in training on the eve of the tournament, was confident they would learn from their halting quarterfinal against Romania.

"We missed a couple of tackles on their second goal, the ball just kept getting deflected and (Florin) Raduciu didn't waste the chance. We must make out tackles count against Romario and Bebeto," he said.

But he was not overawed by Sweden's first World Cup semifinal since 1958 when they reached the final against Brazil at Stockholm.

"It's a dream come true. We're going to enjoy ourselves," added Bjorklund, who has had to have a pain-killing injection for a groin strain for the last three games.

Brodin, who scored the first goal in Sunday's quarterfinal against Romania, said he was ready for any special Brazil treatment.

"The Brazilian defenders and midfielders are very quick to pick up the man in possession. They are very hard. I don't say they're dirty but they are really motivated," he said.

Aldair, called up on the eve of the tournament as a late replacement for the sick Carlos Mozzer, has turned into a key player in the Brazilian defence. And as he plays for Roma in the Italian league he knows all about Brodin who plays for Parma.

"But it's not necessarily going to be Aldair who marks me," Brodin said. "The Brazilians play a zonal defence and it's Mauro Silva, Dunga and Mazinho who put up the first defensive barrier. Space and time will be at a minimum," he said.

Brodin said it was a relief to score from open play against Romania. His other goal in the tournament was from a penalty against Russia.

"No matter how well you might be, playing a scorer needs goals to maintain confidence. You get so few chances in a World Cup," he said.

However he doesn't expect Sweden to use the same free-kick combination again.

"It's the sort of trick you can only use once," he said. "The Brazilians will have watched it on video."

Sweden captain Jonas Thern said he definitely would play.

"I'm not going through that again," vowed the 27-year-old midfielder who had been sidelined because of injury.

"The knee will be okay. There was just no point starting a match I couldn't finish," added Thern on Monday.

Stefan Schwarz may not have Thern's flair but his retriever-like qualities could have been decisive. His sending-off brought a one-game suspension.

Thern said that with Martin Dahlin, Tomas Brodin and Kenneth Andersson in attack they had a chance of creating space in the Brazilian defence.

"So far only the Dutch have tried three forwards against Brazil. They scored twice but let in three. So we

have to keep our defence tight," he said.

Dahlin, who was suspended for the first round group game against Brazil, was still worrying about a slight calf tear but coach Tommy Svensson was confident his four-goal striker would play.

"I'm sure Martin will be ready on the day," he said. Svensson said he would not change tactics.

"This sort of success makes my job easy. I don't have to motivate anyone."

Hakan Mild, who replaced Thern against Romania, will very probably keep his place.

Andersson, a second-choice before the finals, has made a name for himself with four goals, including the equaliser against Romania which sent the game into a shoot-out.

"Aldair is a good jumper but that Romania goal was my first header from a long cross. Martin (Dahlin) was out the first time we played Brazil and hopefully we should make space for each other," he said.

Brazil will probably reinstate Rai, their captain coming into these finals.

"Rai is a very great midfielder. He can make things happen and I was pleased with the way he played when he went on against Holland," Parreira said.

Brazil have been playing with Mazinho, an extra defender, since the 1-1 draw with Sweden.

Brazil showed against the Netherlands, when all five goals came in the last half hour, they can play the waiting game.

It was Aldair's long ball over the top of the Dutch defence which sent Bebeto away for a cross Romario volleyed in.

But Parreira denied they had adopted European tactics. "The only thing we try to do is organise the team when we don't have the ball," he said.

"That's what we all do now," countered Svensson. "Win the ball and make it do the work."

Football doesn't change. That was George Raynor's maxim in 1958. He was the unheard-of English coach who took Sweden to the 1958 final.

Cup organisers look for Bulgarian translators

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP) — When Bulgaria toppled defending champion Germany to advance to the final four of the World Cup, the Germans were not the only ones shocked.

World Cup organisers were sent scrambling — for Bulgarian translators.

"We pretty much figured they wouldn't be here," said Alison Leigh Hofflich, head of World Cup language ser-

vices for Giants Stadium. "So we didn't have any Bulgarian interpreters. And we didn't think we'd need any."

In the run-up to the semifinals, Bulgaria was lightly regarded, routing the worst of the 24 cup teams, Greece, after an opening loss to Nigeria. The 4-0 win was Bulgaria's first ever in the World Cup so there was no reason to consider Bulgaria a major language need.

Romania cursed by penalty shootout

CONSTANTA, Romania (AP) — Romanians put on a brave face Monday, blaming the "curse of the penalty" for their team's World Cup loss to Sweden.

Scores of fans early Monday took to the streets of this Black Sea port, hometown of team captain Gheorghe Hagi, defiantly waving the blue, red and yellow national flag in central Ovid Square.

Young fans cheered "Romania, Romania," even after the team lost 5-4 in a sudden-death penalty shoot-out in the quarterfinals. By mid-Monday, the square was full of middle-aged men gloomily perusing newspapers spelling the defeat in print.

"We lost on the lottery of penalties," said the local newspaper Telegraf, which had kept the frontpage open for the match to finish at about 1:30 a.m.

Romania also lost in a penalty shoot-out to Ireland at the 1990 World Cup in Italy.

All hopes had been pinned on Hagi, the "Maradona of the Carpathians" and Constanta's most famous son.

But neither hope nor talent was enough, this time. "We should have won, but we didn't have the luck," said an unidentified Hagi family member by telephone.

Thousands of fans all around the country mourned the defeat but said the loss was less tangible as it was on penalties.

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World Cup fever outrages purists in Iran

TEHRAN (R) — Iran is gripped by World Cup fever. Up to half the population reportedly watch the games which are broadcast live — or almost live — for the first time since 1979 Islamic revolution.

Purists concerned about "revolutionary Islamic values" are outraged about the coverage and about the partial lifting of a ban on women going to soccer stadiums announced this week.

State television has been showing every game of the World Cup live — except for a delay of a few seconds to allow editors to cut out crowd scenes showing women fans in clothes deemed inappropriate. The gap is filled by doctored crowd shots from previous games.

Hamshahri newspaper praised the move as a clever solution which had blocked efforts to keep live broadcasts off Iranian television.

But Jomhuri Eslami, alone among newspapers to condemn the World Cup frenzy, was not impressed.

It said the television had become "a mirror of America" and a tool publicising the country Iran calls its biggest enemy.

Hamshahri counters that the television is rendering great service by winning back audiences from western satellite television programmes.

Some of the games have been watched by an unprecedented 30 million Iranians, half the population of a country whose team failed to qualify for the finals, it said.

The Iranian Soccer Federation has announced that it will allow women to watch Iranian, Bahraini, Indian and Indonesian youth teams compete in an Asian championship qualifying group in Tehran from next Monday, the magazine Gozaresh Haft says in its current issue.

It welcomed the decision as "constructive and encouraging."

But Jomhuri Eslami asked: "Considering the religious issues which we all abide by, what argument can justify the presence of young girls in stadiums where 15-year-old youths appear in sports uniforms?"

Resalat newspaper said "occasional negative and immoral acts such as insulting the referee or the players and shouting obscene chants" dogged Iranian soccer games, making them inappropriate for a family outing.

"If women start flooding stadiums, many moral and Islamic values will be disregarded in the future," it said.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Costa heads for Italy

LISBON (AFP) — Benfica player Rui Costa signed for newly-promoted Italian side Fiorentina here Monday for £7 million on a three-year deal. The Portuguese international 22-year-old is expected to earn \$800,000 a year.

Sevilla demands \$1.5m from Maradona

SEVILLE, Spain (AFP) — Sevilla is demanding \$1.5 million compensation from disgraced Argentinian World Cup star Diego Maradona, the club revealed Monday. Sevilla, which sacked the player June 30 last year for failing to fulfil his contract, made the claim as part of a legal battle with Maradona. The player, banned from the World Cup for failing a drugs test, is in turn claiming his contract should be fully paid up by the club.

Million fans flock to tennis

PARIS (AFP) — Over one million tennis fans have flocked to 23 tennis events during the past six months, the ATP revealed Monday. The figure, 1,048,581, was 4.8 per cent up on last year. The highest increase came at the grasscourt event at Halle in Germany, a warm-up tournament before Wimbledon, where 130,000 spectators attended compared to 82,000 in 1993.

Durand makes it a French first

CAHORS, France (AFP) — French double champion Jacky Durand headed a 150km escape to win the tenth stage of the Tour de France here Tuesday between Bergerac and Cahors. The 27-year-old Durand, who finished a lowly 121st in last year's race, notched France's first success in this year's race by joining the early breakaway after just 10km of the 160.5km run. He then outpaced his three co-conspirators 9kms from the finish, leaving Italian Marco Serpellini to take second, 55 secs adrift, with Australian Stephen Hodge in third. Italy's Gianluca Bortolami, who won the sixth stage, finished fourth despite breaking a spoke in the final kilometres and moved up into third overall. The pack, including race leader Miguel Indurain and main rival Tony Rominger, finished around two minutes behind the leader. Durand, who retained his French championship this year, said: "I decided to attack when Bortolami had his problem. He did not want to stop but his team boss ordered him to, which gave me my chance. He was the one I feared. This meant more to me than my French title." Durand's only other major career success was the Tour of Flanders in 1992.

Leeds line up Czech Skuhravy

LONDON (AFP) — Leeds United look set to sign Czech international striker Tomas Skuhravy from Genoa for a club record of £3 million. United managing director Bill Forthby said on Wednesday: "There is some way to go yet, but we are hopeful of reaching agreement by tomorrow." The fee would beat Leeds' current record of £2.7 million, which they paid Sheffield United last summer for striker Brian Deane, who has so far failed to make an impact at Elland Road.

Top soccer teams in Jordan prepare for action-packed season

By Aileen Bannayan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — After a brief period of rest from last year's hectic season, the Kingdom's top soccer teams will be back in action early next month. While having their hands full with the hundreds of matches and related arrangements to be completed before the League, the Federation Shield and the Jordan Cup competitions begin, the Jordan Soccer Federation (JSF) has been hit with a series of resignations by board members at a time when the Kingdom's youth national team has already left Amman for Qatar to participate in the preliminary round of the Asian youth soccer championship.

The team had been in a training camp in Aqaba for the past ten days, during which they had a series of friendly matches.

However it seems that their preparations were not up to par as it was recently reported that the JSF had not secured the minimum amenities to make their training camp and preparations a success.

After officials complained that the Aqaba Municipal Stadium was not suited for play and that the team did not even have proper accommodation, His Royal Highness Prince Abdul Ben Al Hussein met with Minister of Youth Fawaz Abul Ghanam and arranged for proper accommodation and facilities to be provided for the team.

Coach Ahmad Abu Sheikh asserted that the team was not expected to compete for an advanced standing, but rather gain much-needed experience from such a regional tournament.

The Jordanian team will play Oman July 15, Qatar July 17, and the Maldives July 19.

Only the top team of the group will qualify to the final round which will be held in Indonesia in September.

Meanwhile, on the local scene, the JSF last week launched the 1994 soccer season with the second, third and fourth division championships while the Federation Shield has been set for Aug. 7 when Al Wihdat will meet Kufroum.

The competing first division teams have been divided into two groups: Titleholders Al Ramtha, Al Wihdat, Kufroum, Al Arah, Al Ahli

and Al Faisali are in Group 1. While runners up Al Qadisiyah, Al Hussein, Al Jazireh, Al Karmel, Shabab Al Hussein, and Al Jeel are in Group 2. The top teams of each group will face off for the trophy.

Meanwhile, Jordan Cup and league champions Al Faisali will meet cup runners up Al Ramtha in the charity match — the Cup Winner's Cup — in the first week of August.

The first division, set to begin Aug. 18, groups champions Al Faisali, runners up Al Wihdat, Al Hussein, Al Qadisiyah, Al Ahli, Al Arah, Al Ramtha, Al Jazireh and newcomers Al Karmel, Shabab Al Hussein, Al Jeel, and Kufroum.

Al Fuhels, Sahab, Al Baqaz and Yarmouk Amman were relegated upon the completion of the 1993 championship in April.

Sixteen teams are competing in the second division, 31 teams in the third division, while the fourth division includes the highest number of teams — 98 — which have been divided into 25 groups.

In its latest meeting, the JSF announced some amendments to prizes for winners in the four respective divisions.

The first division champions will receive JD 5,000, and the runners up JD 1,500. The Federation Shield and Jordan Cup champions will receive JD 2,000, while the Cup Winner's Cup champions get JD 1,500.

The second division champions receive JD 1,000 and the third division winners JD 300.

The prizes for age-group competitions have been lowered, while the top scorer award has been set at JD 250.

In the 1993 season Al Faisali's star Jiryes Tadros was the top scorer as his team won the League, Jordan Cup and Cup Winner's Cup, leaving only the Federation Shield trophy for Al Ramtha.

Federation Shield record
1981 Al Jazireh
1982 Al Wihdat
1983 Al Wihdat
1984 Amman
1985 Amman
1986 Al Jazireh
1987 Al Faisali
1988 Al Wihdat
1989 Al Ramtha
1990 Al Ramtha
1991 Al Faisali
1992 Al Faisali
1993 Al Ramtha

Football by the numbers

LOS ANGELES (AFP) — Once upon a time, football was all about scoring goals. Now in football, there are lies, damn lies and statistics.

Maybe it is because the World Cup is in the United States, where just following a baseball team requires the numerical savvy of a nuclear scientist.

Certainly, popular wisdom says it was the statistical dependency of the American sports fan that prompted the flood of numbers noting such minutiae as left-leg or right-leg shots on goal, blocked shots, shots from inside or outside the penalty area, fouls made, fouls suffered, shots blocked and the increasingly popular assist.

"We decided the better solution is to offer everything, than have someone say they did not have something they wanted," said Bruno Rokvic, the European who developed the programme that records the data.

Rokvic is a veteran of sports number crunching, having worked on the Olympics results service in Sarajevo, Calgary, Los Angeles and Barcelona.

He says the scope of the statistics offered at USA 94

exceeds those at Italian 90.

"FIFA had some statistics in Italy, but this is the first time we've had real statistics for the World Cup," he said.

Compared to data gathering for the 1984 Olympic football tournament, Rokvic said, the system here is "science fiction."

Many football purists agree, and they do not mean it as a compliment.

Rokvic has heard the criticism, and he admits that the system is not perfect, but he believes the statistics can be useful tool for analysing a player's performance or a match.

As with any such system, the key is accurate data entry. Each match is worked by a team of five, two "spotters" who keep an eagle eye out for the left-leg and right-leg shots and such, two statisticians who log the data on forms for comparison later, and one person to enter data directly into the computer to produce a match statistics sheet as soon as the final whistle blows.

They start before the match, entering the teams, the officials and the weather.

Jazireh pull out of the Kingdom's women's basketball championship

By Aileen Bannayan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Kingdom's women's basketball championship was dealt a hard blow Monday when titleholders Al Jazireh abruptly pulled out of the three-team competition minutes before their match against former champions Al Orthodoxy in first round final of the championship organised by the Jordan Basketball Federation (JBF).

JBF officials, referees, fans and even players of both teams seemed amazed at the sudden decision of Al Jazireh's officials to pull out of the competition after both teams registered with the match referees, warmed up and were about to start the match when Al Jazireh's players left Al Orthodoxy court packed only with a sparse crowd of no more than 50 fans.

"Due to the prevailing circumstances at the JBF, we've decided to discontinue our participation and concentrate on our upcoming international tournament," Al Jazireh head coach Fadi Sahab told the Jordan Times.

Insiders told the Jordan Times that the "prevailing circumstances" referred to the JBF's off-hand approach and unwillingness to accept Al Jazireh's request to postpone the final match set for

July 17 although they had taken into consideration Al Orthodoxy's request to end both rounds of the tournament by the set date.

Apparently two of Al Orthodoxy's players would not be able to join the team if the tournament were postponed, while one of Al Jazireh's players would be able to join the team in that case.

Officials however ridiculed Al Jazireh for opting to pull out rather than play the match and ask for a postponement later on.

However Al Jazireh officials assert that they had requested the JBF by a written letter dated July 2 to postpone the final until July 20 and move the game to a different court so that both teams would enjoy the home court advantage in the final matches of each round.

However, it seems that the JBF only discussed the matter in their July 11 meeting and informed Al Jazireh of their willingness to make changes on the date and venue of the final match as long as Al Orthodoxy accepted the change.

"We told them we would hold the final match at the Sports Palace, and even change the date to the 20th if Al Orthodoxy accepted too," JBF president Awad Haddad Tuesday told the Jordan Times.

"It is a shame that Al Jazireh chose of deal with the matter in an unsportmanlike manner," Haddad said "I'm very disappointed, and I think having the matches now would have better prepared them for their international tournament for which we have extended our helping hand, he added.

The titleholders will be hosting top four regional teams in Al Jazireh's women's international tournament July 23-29 when they will face Lebanese champions Homentmen, Syria's runners-up Al Jala Kefalovryos of Cyprus and a select team from the occupation territories.

The JBF and its newly formed women's committee had hoped that this year's women's championship would group the biggest ever number of teams providing valid chance to regroup the women's national team which last completed in 1983 when women's competitions were put on hold for six years.

Seven teams initially registered to play this season. However, former competitors Al Ahli and Homentmen declined to play, while newcomers Al Watani and Al Husun pulled out before the announcement of the schedule.

During the past two matches of the competition, the third competing team — Abu

Nusair — suffered one crushing defeat after another and both Al Jazireh and Al Orthodoxy demonstrated that they were determined and set to be crowned champions.

Al Orthodoxy crushed Abu Nusair 108-15 — possibly the highest score recorded in the country's women's championship — giving a clear signal to the other camp that they mean business and are ready to take back the title they got used to keeping so often.

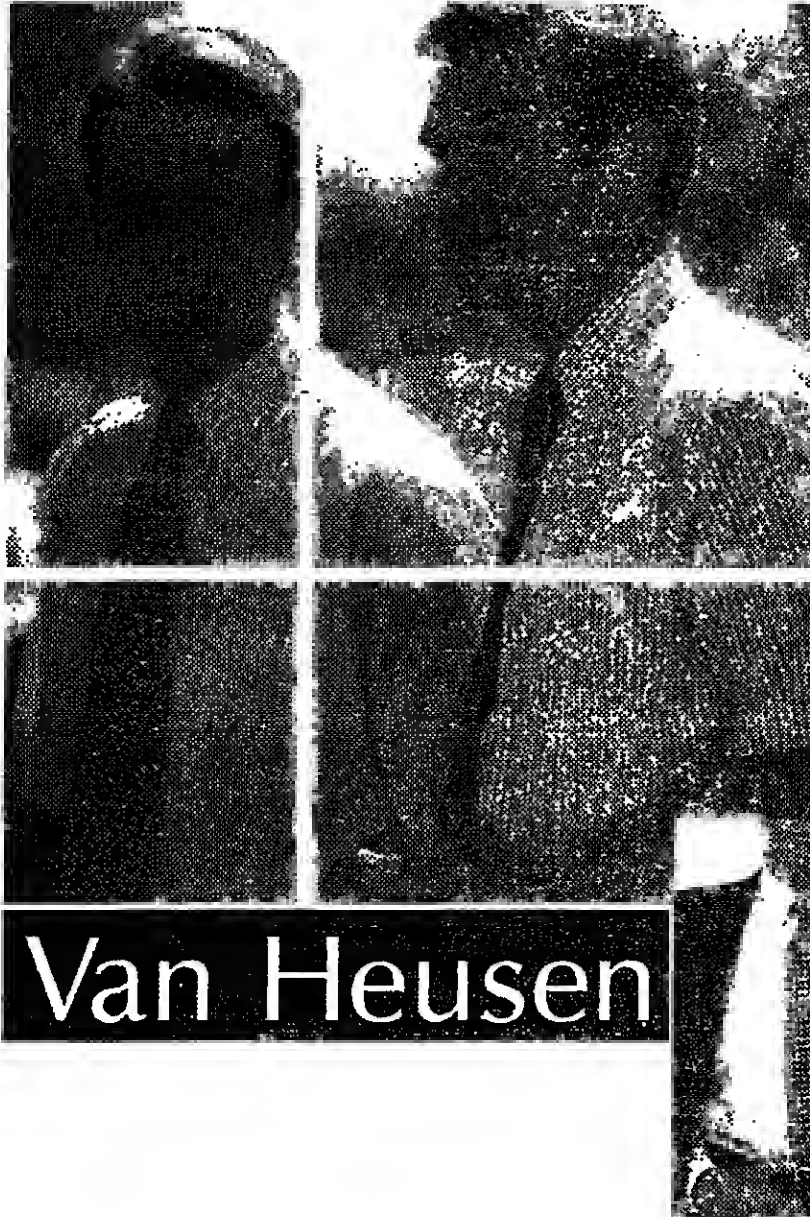
Meanwhile Al Jazireh had scored a smaller 93-17 win over Abu Nusair — a team lacking basic skills and experience but admirably having the will to compete.

Al Orthodoxy only lost the title to Al Jazireh last year. Though missing the efforts of team captain Lara Masri Al Naber this season, Shireen Abu Khader is back on the team together with Jihan Abdul Noor, Carol Seikaly, Dima and Ghadah Qandah.

Women's basketball began its latest comeback in the 1989-90 season when three teams, Al Orthodoxy, Al Ahli, and Homentmen competed in the championship which was won by Al Orthodoxy.

In 1991, Al Jazireh joined the women's championship and finished fourth after the three aforementioned teams.

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ONE SUIT'S THE PROBLEM

Both vulnerable, South deals.

NORTH
♠ A J 10 6 4
♥ 7 5 3
♦ Q J 4
♣ Q 4 4

WEST
♠ 2
♥ 8 6 4 3 2
♦ A 8 6
♣ 8 3 2

EAST
♠ 9 8
♥ Q J 5
♦ Q J 10 4 3
♣ A 10 9 6

SOUTH
♠ K Q 7 5 3
♥ 10 7
♦ K 7 2
♣ E 7 5

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 2 NT Pass
4 ♠ Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Four of ♠

The fascination of bridge is that even seemingly simple situations have myriad facets. The diamond suit is the key to this hand.

By partnership agreement, North's jump to two no trump was a forcing raise in spades. South's close-out bid of four spades showed a minimum opening bid with no singleton and no interest in slam.

West led a heart. Declarer won in dummy, drew trumps in two rounds and forced out the ace of clubs. After winning the heart return, declarer cashed the remaining clubs and the

hand was at the crossroads.

Obviously, declarer will succeed by holding the diamond losers to two. What's the best way to accomplish that?

If you lead a diamond from the closed hand, you have two chances to win. Assume West plays low and you insert either the nine or the jack. Suppose whichever card you play loses to the next higher card in the East hand. East must return a diamond and you again have a guess, with a 50 percent chance of getting it right.

You do better if you arrange to lead a low diamond toward your hand. Your first chance is that East has the right diamonds and errs by following low. You can then insert the seven, which West can win cheaply, but the defender is trapped in an endplay.

Should East play the eight of diamonds you go up with the king; you're home if East has the ace. If the king loses to the ace and West returns a diamond, you are still safe if you guess which card to play from dummy. That gives you three chances instead of two, a 50 percent improvement in your odds. As the cards lie, East cannot force the king without setting up a trick for the combined J 9.

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	Louis Gossett — in MIDNIGHT STING Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30		Nabila Obeid and Farouk Al Fishawi in Unveiling The Secrets Arabic Shows: 12:30, 3:15, 5:00, 6:45, 8:30, 10:30		CONCORD "1" THE CRUSH Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 CONCORD "2" PERFECT WORLD Shows: 12:30, 6:15, 10:30 Mr. Jones Shows: 3:30, 8:30		INDECENT PROPOSAL Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30		Today & Everyday Abu Awwad in social comedy "PUNCTURED BAG"		Present their play: WHAT A PEACE! (Salam Ya Salam) Daily at 8:30 p.m. The theatre is closed on Tues days.	

Ashrawi demands respect for the rule of the law

RAFAH (AP) — A Palestinian human rights advocate Tuesday toured the jail where a Gaza man was beaten to death by Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) police interrogators and said she would take up the case with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat.

"I want to ask Chairman Arafat to respect the sovereignty of the law," activist Hanan Ashrawi, a former spokeswoman for Mr. Arafat, said after a visit to the Gaza City jail where Farid Al Jarbua, 28, died last week.

Dr. Ashrawi, head of the Palestinian Independent Commission for Citizens' Rights, was expected to meet Mr. Arafat later Tuesday.

The self-rule authority itself first announced Mr. Jarbua's death, promising a complete investigation, and the three officers believed responsible have been arrested.

The death nonetheless raised fears about the methods of the new PLO police. Palestinians have been anxious to avoid the pattern of human rights abuses that they fought under Israeli occupation.

During the seven-year Palestinian uprising against

Israeli rule, 20 Palestinians died in Israeli custody, including nine as a result of violent interrogation, according to the Israeli human rights group B'tselem.

General Prosecutor Khaled Al Qudra said Al Jarbua was arrested June 25. He was suspected of being an informant for Israel and of trying to recruit Palestinians to work for him after the agreement on self-rule in the Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho went into effect in May.

Mr. Qudra admitted that Jarbua died of violence under interrogation.

"Out of our respect for human rights, we have not tried to hide the facts or cover up for the suspected perpetrators. What happened is a lesson for all of us and we will make sure it will never happen again," he said.

The human rights organisation, the Gaza Centre for Rights and Law, denounced the killing in a report, calling it a great shock.

"Palestinian prisoners suffered at the hands of the Israeli security service... under occupation. We will not accept the continuation of this style of detention and interrogation by the security officers of the Palestinian au-

thority," said the report.

The New York-based Human Rights Watch-Middle East urged Palestinian Justice Minister Freih Abu Medein in a letter to "send clear signals that violations of human rights will not be tolerated."

The collaboration issue has caused extensive bloodshed within the Palestinian community, with over 800 people accused of working as informants killed since the uprising began in December 1987. Human rights groups said the accusation was often used to cover personal or clan feuds and vice crimes.

Still Mr. Abu Medein has accused the Israelis of continuing to run informers in the autonomous areas in violation of the peace accord.

Mr. Qudra said only those collaborators who remain active after self-rule will be prosecuted. "Spying is a contravention of the peace agreement," he said.

Mr. Jarbua was among 10 others detained in Rafah refugee camp in the southern Gaza Strip, including two women, Nawal Nims, 35, and her seven months pregnant sister-in-law, Fairouz, 24.

Mr. Jarbua's family said the brutality started with his arrest.

Abu Alaa in Amman on his way to Jericho

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Ahmad Couriea, the finance minister in the Palestine National Authority (PNA) in autonomous Gaza and Jericho, arrived in Jordan on Tuesday on his way to assume office in Jericho, Palestinian sources said.

Reports from Cairo said Mr. Couriea, better known as Abu Alaa, had not scheduled any formal discussion with Jordanian officials on an economic cooperation agreement the two sides signed in January or the draft of an accord on modalities of the Jan. 7 document.

However, he would be meeting with Jordanian officials informally, said the reports, confirmed by Palestinian sources. No Jordanian official was immediately available for comment.

Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and diplomatic sources here said Abu Alaa would seek to assure Jordan that the PLO was committed to the Jan. 7 agreement and that the delay in formal endorsement of the subsequent draft on modalities was because of pre-occupations of PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat.

According to highly placed PLO sources, the draft accord, which was prepared in mid-May, was being delayed as a result of different perceptions among PLO leaders, including Farouk Kaddoumi, head of the Political Department, who is, technically, the deputy head of the Palestine Economic

Council for Development and Reconstruction (PECDAR).

In that capacity, Mr. Kaddoumi has a say in the endorsement of the accord although Abu Alaa was the one who helped draft it.

"There is a major overlapping of roles and this is leading to holding up urgent issues," a senior PLO source said last month.

However, the justifications have not gone down well with Jordan, which is anxious to know where the Kingdom stands in terms of economic cooperation between the two banks of the River Jordan.

Jordanian officials have conveyed their views to the PLO through different channels and sought a clear PLO position on the draft, according to diplomats. They said Abu Alaa's choice of Jordan as his route to Jericho might have been partly motivated by his desire to meet with Jordanian officials to explain the PLO's stand.

The PLO sources said Mr. Couriea would cross the King Hussein Bridge on Thursday to take up office in Jericho. He would be sworn in along with Samir Ghosheh and Yasser Arafat.

Mr. Arafat arrived in the Gaza Strip from Tunis through Cairo on Tuesday to take up permanent residence there.

Omar Khatib, acting head of the Palestine embassy here, confirmed that Abu Alaa would not be holding any "official" meetings while in Jordan on this trip. "There could be informal meetings," he said.

Israel presses for S. African explanation

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Israel's ambassador to Pretoria said on Tuesday he had sought an explanation of police charges that Israel's secret service had murdered two people in South Africa.

Ambassador Alon Liel told reporters he met Foreign Ministry officials in Pretoria on Monday to discuss the allegation that Mossad had committed the murders to halt the supply of strategic chemicals to Arab countries.

"I raised our concerns and asked the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to approach the police and find out what's behind these allegations," Mr. Liel said.

He said the South African officials told him local police had given them no information.

"I was promised that they would make inquiries with the police," said Mr. Liel, who denied the police charges when they were first made last month.

Police said Mossad was behind the killing of British-born paint technologist Alan Kidger in Johannesburg in November 1991 and of chemical engineer Wynand van Wyk in Cape Town in April last year.

They have reopened inquiries into two apparent suicides, those of former arms dealer Don Lange and chemical engineer John Scott. Lange, Kidger and Van Wyk were all acquainted with each other and Kidger knew Scott.

A confidant of Lange's told Reuters that the dead man had worked with the then South African minister of defence, General Magnus Malan, in arranging the sale of G-5 artillery to Iraq in the 1980s.

The confidant said Lange had met Malan in a Vienna hotel room. Lange had spoken of complex financial arrangements for payment for arms, including the use of laundered drug money from South America, the confidant said.

General Malan, who was once head of the South African defence force and is now retired, could not be reached for comment.

Lange, who apparently knew of Israeli involvement in Kidger's death before police did, was found gassed in his Durban home two weeks ago. A business associate quoted him as saying several months ago he feared he would be "eliminated."

The arms deals during the 1980s were shrouded in secrecy because of an international weapons embargo against the then apartheid government in power in Pretoria.

Israel ignored the embargo, cooperating closely with South Africa on military and security matters, but the new South African government of President Nelson Mandela has friendly ties with many Arab countries.

International children's village opened in Marka

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Her Majesty Queen Noor on Tuesday opened the first Children's International Summer Village (CISV) in Jordan at the Schneller School in Marka.

The village, named Zeitouneh, will host 40 children from 10 countries, 10 leaders, six junior counsellors and five staff for a month.

The children, most of whom arrived earlier and lived with Jordanian families before the actual programme started officially, are gathered "to help them learn about each other's countries and to lay the foundation of tolerance and understanding of differences of race, creed and religion," president of CISV in Jordan Leila Halasa said in the address inaugurating the village.

The idea of bringing together children at an "impressible age to learn to understand their common likeness" was the brainchild of Dr. Doris T. Allen, a psychologist at the University of Cincinnati, following World War II.

Thus, in 1951, the first CISV village for preadolescents was held in Cincinnati, Ohio. It was followed by the establishment of inter-ange programmes in 62 and seminar camps in 71.

The village programme is a four-week international summer camp where de-



Her Majesty Queen Noor greets children at the first Children's International Summer Village she opened in Marka on Tuesday (Petra photo)

legations of two boys and two girls, aged 11, adult leaders from 12 nations, staff and four junior counsellors (age 16-18) from three nations participate in a multi-language camp featuring typical camp activities and emphasising international friendship, cross-cultural communications and cooperative living.

Ms. Halasa stressed in her opening note the fact that as the region, Jordan in particular, is striving to reach a "world" peace, "we are teaching our children and young adults to strive to seek and not to yield" in order to achieve peace "between nations and peace of the inner conscience of the human indi-

vidual."

Ms. Halasa brought the idea of CISV from Lebanon and in 1980 started a village in Amman. In 1983 the organisers (Ms. Halasa and four other women) drew up a constitution and registered the society at the Ministry of Development.

Delegations of Jordanian children have been sent to all parts of the world as "young ambassadors of love and peace," carrying with them "customs, traditions and sharing them with the others at the village," Ms. Halasa said.

So far about 500 families in Amman have been involved in the CISV programme. This year, Jordan has children delegations sent to Norway, Finland,

Germany and Brazil, beside those attending the Schneller camp.

The CISV has grown from 55 participants, from nine nations, in 1951 to over 50,000 participants from 92 nations to date.

Attending the inaugural ceremony for this year's Amman camp were director of the village Lina Qutub, Schneller School Director Sami Habibi, and members of the CISV Executive Committee.

The Queen, who joined the children in singing the CISV song that promotes peace among children of the world, was accompanied by Her Royal Highness Princess Aisha Bint Al Hussein and Princess Basma Ali.

Four killed in attack near Algiers embassy

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

ALGIERS (Agencies) — Gunmen ambushed a police patrol near the Italian embassy Tuesday, setting off a gun battle that killed four people a day after 11 died in attacks linked to a Muslim fundamentalist insurgency.

Two of the gunmen, believed to be Muslim militants, and two police died in the gunbattle in the hills of Algiers normally considered a relatively secure area for diplomats and other foreigners.

A third gunman was arrested by security forces sent to assist the patrol, which was attacked in an unmarked car, said authorities on condition of anonymity.

The latest attacks have increased fear among foreigners that the military-backed government was unable to ensure their safety. Seven East Europeans died Monday, bringing to 51 slain in a campaign aimed at undermining a government dependent on foreign expertise.

Despite the violence, the U.S. oil company ARCO signed a 25-year contract with state-owned Sonatrach to develop a field in the Sahara at a cost of \$1 billion, the gov-

ernment said.

About 4,000 people have been killed in political violence since January 1992, when the military cancelled parliamentary elections that the fundamentalist Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) was virtually certain to win.

Foreigners have been targeted since September, and many of the victims have been workers for government-owned companies including Sonatrach, the petroleum firm that generates the lion's share of the country's export revenue.

After assailants slit the throats of seven Italian sailors last week, an official who returned to Rome after a fact-finding mission said Tuesday that Italy's estimated 600 nationals remaining in Algeria may have to be repatriated.

"If the situation doesn't improve, we must bring home the Italians. Without political stability, there's nothing to be done," said Mirko Tremaglia, head of parliament's foreign affairs commission.

Mr. Tremaglia visited Algeria at the weekend for talks with Algerian ministers after the deaths of the seven seamen.

"How can people live and work in these conditions, under armed protection around the clock? It's more like going to war than going to work," he said.

In Bonn, a leading member of the FIS accused the Group of Seven leading industrialised states Tuesday of siding with Algeria's military government at the expense of the country's people.

Rabah Kebir, the head of the FIS overseas office, said in a communiqué that the G-7 during their summit meeting in Naples, Italy, last weekend had "sided with the military power by backing its economic policy which favours multi-national companies at the expense of the Algerian people."

He added that the G-7 had avoided addressing the Algerian crisis during the summit by asking "the military power" to negotiate with members of Algerian society who reject violence and terrorism, even though the violence began when the military halted the electoral process.

The G-7 and Russia on Sunday called on Algeria's government to establish a dialogue with all members of Algerian society that have

rejected violence and terrorism.

The summit leaders also lent their support to the government's economic reform policies.

French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe said on Tuesday the Algerian authorities must hold to their course in fighting terrorism.

After briefing parliament's foreign affairs committee, Mr. Juppe told reporters: "Alas terrorism and violence have been given free reign again in the last few days with Italians and Russians among the victims..."

The fight against terrorism is a long-term struggle. The Algerian authorities, who have courageously begun far-reaching reforms and are looking for a political dialogue, must stay on course with the aim, at a moment when it will be possible, of returning to a system which allows free elections to be held.

"The course must be maintained and France will continue to show its solidarity with the Algerian people to this end," Mr. Juppe said. France agreed on Monday to provide Algeria with credits worth six billion francs (\$1.1 billion).

U.K. lords back new law on male rape

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

LONDON (AFP) — Britain's House of Lords late Monday approved the introduction of a new offence of male rape, carrying a maximum penalty of life imprisonment — the same as that for the rape of a woman. The move came after the Conservative government announced it was accepting calls from the Labour opposition for the definition of rape in England and Wales to be changed to include non-consensual buggery. The amendment to the Criminal Justice and Public Order Bill means the maximum penalty for buggery without consent will be increased from 10 years to life imprisonment. It will also give the same rights to anonymity as women victims. Labour's Lord Ponsbury of Shillbroke, who introduced the amendment, stressed it made "any acts of non-consensual buggery, whether of a man or a woman, rape." He said: "It is important to be clear that rape is a crime of violence, which can be committed by a man against a woman or another man." Peers later approved a Labour amendment decriminalising anal intercourse with a consenting adult woman. At present, although very few such cases come to court, consenting anal sex between a man and woman carries an automatic jail sentence of at least three months. Police and counselling agencies have both argued that many cases of male rape are unreported, and campaigners believe the amendment will encourage more people to admit they have been attacked.

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

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